

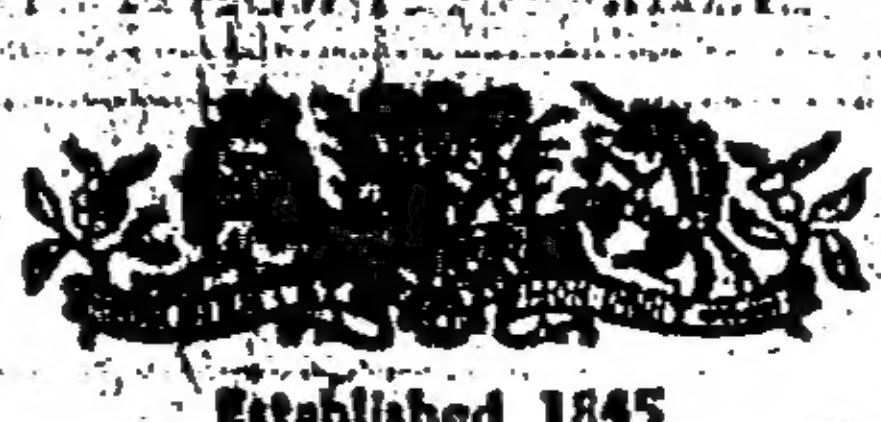
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The Big Three Send An

Chinese Troops Reported In Indo-China

Hanoi, Indo-China, Dec. 22.

The Chinese Communists were reported on Friday to have entered the Indo-Chinese civil war on the side of the native rebels.

Informal sources said they did not have definite proof that the Chinese had crossed to Indo-China, but they said Chinese were "probably" fighting beside the North Vietnamese forces which threaten to outflank the extreme right end of the French line in Tonkin province, on the border of Communist China.

The informants said French troops may have to give up their positions on their exposed right flank, despite assurances from General Jean de Lattre de Tassigny, the French commander in Indo-China, that there would be no more withdrawals.—United Press.

SITUATION CALM

Saloon, Dec. 22. A French military spokesman described the situation in the whole Cochinchina as calm. Franco-Vietnamese forces have carried out mopping-up operations in North Vietnam against guerrillas and infiltrations of Vietminh troops outside the delta. The Vietminh forces seemed to be in the Haiphong area in which they launched all but unsuccessful night attacks on various French posts, the military spokesman said.—Reuter.

New British Novelty

New York, Dec. 22. American housewives are turning out a novel import from Britain—vacuum sweepers that run without electricity. The "sweeper" runs on four wheels which operate an independent ball bearing mechanism to activate brush and suction mechanisms.—Associated Press.

Seasonal Greetings

This being the last issue of the China Mail before the holidays, the Editor and his staff take the opportunity of extending to readers the wish that they will spend a happy Christmas and enjoy a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Charged With Two Murders Found Not Guilty Of The First

Sydney, Dec. 22.

A Jury in the Central Criminal Court here today acquitted William Birle, a 25-year-old fisherman, of having murdered Kathleen Holmes, aged 11, one of the two English sisters found dead at Tounley, northern New South Wales, on August 29.

Immediately after the acquittal, Birle was charged with the murder of the girl's sister, Grace Dorothy Holmes, aged 18, and remanded by the same court until March next year.

The girls, whose battered bodies were found in a lakeside swamp at Tounley, had emigrated from Dagenham, Essex, with their parents five months before. During the eight day trial, Birle denied knowledge of the murders. Birle, who pleaded not guilty to the new charge today, was refused bail.—Reuter.

Red Cross Aid For Korea

Geneva, Dec. 22.

The Red Cross Societies of the free world have contributed nearly US\$1,000,000 (£355,000) of civilian relief in Korea during the past three months, the League of Red Cross Societies announced here today. The relief included medicines, clothing and the services of medical and welfare personnel.—Associated Press.

Invitation To Russia TALKS PROPOSED

London, Dec. 22.

The United States, Britain and France sent a Christmas-time invitation to Russia on Friday to join the four-power talks aimed at getting to the root of the friction between Communism and democracy.

Identical notes from the three powers were delivered in Moscow, suggesting that the representatives of the four nations in the United Nations make preliminary arrangements for a full-dress meeting of their foreign ministers—the first since the June 1949 Paris conference.

The Big Three said the talk should cover every area of conflict around the world. In that firm stand they rejected in effect the Soviet Note of November 3 which called for four-power meetings limited to the topic of Germany and her rearmament.

But the Note was very moderate in language, and at the outset it made it clear the three nations were inspired by a genuine desire to put an end to the existing international tension and will spare no effort to achieve so highly desirable an end.

Germany is a profound part of the clash between East and West, the Note said, but it is only a symptom of the giant trouble. It said this trouble "arises primarily from the general attitude adopted by the Government of the USSR since the end of the war, and from the consequent international developments of recent months."

The phrase "developments of recent months" constituted the only reference to Korea or China's intervention, but it was clear that the bloody fighting there would be considered at the four-power meeting.—United Press.

UN Forces Hold On Tightly

Hungnam, Dec. 22.

United Nations forces today held their tiny perimeter round encircled Hungnam port, as navy and marine fighters, working in close support with artillery batteries, pounded everything moving in the surrounding hills.

Frontline troops today gave full credit for the Communist inactivity to the combined services round the clock bombing, strafing, rocketing, burning and shelling.

The Communists made a minor probe twice at the perimeter in the last 24 hours. They were beaten back by accurate artillery fire with more than one hundred Koreans left dead around the ground in front of the perimeter.

Frontline troops, questioned today, said they had not contacted Chinese Communist forces during the last five days. However, intelligence sources indicated that Chinese Communists were near the recently held city of Hamhung, six miles west.

NIGHT-LONG BARRAGE
A handful of American and Puerto Rican troops on the northwestern sector held back a Communist attack which lasted from midnight until dawn. They called for artillery fire as the Communists approached their lines.

Batteries in the centre of Hungnam, three miles away, put down a night-long barrage of heavy shells, sometimes within a hundred yards of the American positions.

Among the dead littering the battlefield was a North Korean peasant woman, who had been carrying ammunition.

The North Koreans attacked, shouting and whooping like Red Indians.

On the northeastern sector, artillery dispersed a night-long attack, leaving behind 20 Koreans dead. Frontline officers thought that the toll of the enemy dead would be much higher because the North Koreans carry their dead from the battlefield.

North Korean dead found today had been carrying apples, cooked rice and enough to last them five days.—Reuter.

5 MIGS SHOT DOWN

The Far East Air Force Headquarters announced today that six Russian-made MIG jets were shot down late on Friday by Fifth Air Force F-84 Sabers in the biggest air battle of the Korean conflict. The Headquarters said that no loss of damage was suffered by the Fifth Air Force fighters.—United Press.

David Low Sends Us His Christmas Card



Conditions In Favour Of Good England First Innings Score

(FROM BRUCE HARRIS)

STOP PRESS

Early Disasters For England

England made a dismal start in their first innings against the Australian score of 104 when the second Test was resumed at Melbourne this morning.

With 11 runs on the board Simpson, who opened the innings with Washbrook was caught by Ian Johnson in the slips off Miller. Simpson had scored four.

The Nottingham batsman was never comfortable, especially against the pacy bowling of Miller, who had a very confident low appeal from his third ball negated.

To everyone's surprise Miller opened the attack with Llewellyn on what appeared to be an easier wicket than yesterday. But Miller made the ball fly quite a bit and kept Simpson guessing.

Dewes joined Washbrook and they took the total to 33 when the young Cambridge undergraduate was caught by Miller off Bill Johnston. Dewes' contribution was eight.

Washbrook had played quiet and very correct cricket during these disasters and he was then joined by Hutton.

Five runs were added by this pair and then Washbrook stepped in front of a straight one from Lindwall—38 for 3, after one hour of play.

Hutton was then two not out and Parkhouse one not out.

HK Cargoes To Be Freed

Mr Ralph H. Hunt, US Consul for Economic Affairs in Hong Kong, said today that he was advising operators of US flag vessels now on route to Hong Kong to try to get immediate delivery for consignees certain cargoes of a non-strategic character which will enter the domestic economies of Hong Kong and Macao, and which will not consequently be re-exported.

Decisions governing the disposition of other cargoes will be made as rapidly as possible.

Melbourne, Dec. 22.

Late tonight the Melbourne weather is still dry and the sky clear—facts which augur well for England's innings tomorrow.

Conditions certainly favoured Bedser again today. The heavy atmosphere enabled him to swerve the ball and a certain dampness in the pitch caused it to skid through quickly.

Given fine weather these conditions will not be repeated tomorrow for the benefit of the Australian bowlers.

To have a reasonable prospect of winning the match we need a lead of at least 100 runs on the first innings to compensate for batting last on a wicket which must deteriorate before next Friday, when the match is due to end. We ought to get them and then some.

The MCC Manager, Mr Green, tells me that the doctor considers there is every prospect that Compton will be fit for selection for the third Test, opening at Sydney a fortnight today.

"He could have played today," said Mr Green, "but it would have been a gamble which, had it gone wrong, would have reduced that side to 10 men. After a fortnight's rest, Compton's knee will not be completely cured but it is likely to be restored to the same state as before the present relapse."

The Danger Disappears

Berlin, Dec. 22.

Major-General Bourne, British commandant in Berlin, said today that the danger of Berlin becoming the flashpoint of world war has been completely disappeared.

Reviewing Berlin's political and economic development in 1950, General Bourne told correspondents that he was completely confident that West Berlin would never become Communist.

"There is not the slightest risk of that," he said. "Berlin is since Korea, only small cog in the big machine of western and Soviet relations."

He forecast 1951 as a year of steady advance in all fields, particularly economic.—Reuter.

Chinese Reds Get Cotton

Washington, Dec. 22.

About 25,000 tons of American cotton including some from a government agency, have been shipped to Communist China and Manchuria since the Korean fighting started, Senator John Williams (Republican, Delaware) told the Senate today.

The United States Government recently banned all shipments to Communist China. Senator Williams said yesterday: "This cotton has been exported from this country in China, not only with the full knowledge of the administration officials but also in one instance at least six shipments have been made from New Orleans during the months immediately following the outbreak of the Korean episode, four of which shipments went to Tientsin.—Reuter."

Gascoigne Leaves

London, Dec. 22.

The British envoy to Japan, Sir Alva Gascoigne, left London today by air for Japan after consultations at the British Foreign Office.—Reuter.

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COMMENT OF THE DAY

Landlords And Tenants

GOVERNMENT has displayed commendable enterprise in drawing up legislation designed to bring a stop to many of the abuses to which landlords, owning newly-built domestic property, have been subjecting hapless tenants. Timely too are some of the revisions of the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance, several of which go some way toward reducing hardships which have to be borne by landlords as well as tenants. The Tenancy (Prolonged Duration) Ordinance which has recently been drafted and gazetted for the first time yesterday is an intelligent attempt to offer much needed protection to people who, while able and willing to pay out premiums for new flats, are still victimised by unscrupulous landlords or their agents. The objects and reasons of the new Bill explicitly refer to the "rocket" which has been practised for some time past. It follows this pattern: a "construction" or other type of premium is first levied against the tenant, and an understanding reached that there would be no eviction, but nevertheless lacking any legally binding agreement securing the tenant against eviction for a definite period. Then, when the tenant has fulfilled his part of the agreement and moved in, either the original landlord or some subsequent purchaser of the property decides the rent has to be increased, and if the tenant is unwilling to submit to this "muleting," he is evicted. The protection which the new Bill proposes to offer to such tenants is to give legal status to these tenancy agreements, until the Governor, in Council decides that any implied agreement has ceased to apply. Tenants who are subjected to these implied agreements may not feel the new legislation goes far enough to safeguard their interests, but it is at least a move in the

right direction and the position can always be reviewed and further amendments made where found to be necessary in the interests of equity and fair dealing. Two important amendments to the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance are proposed. One seeks to rid the Colony of those pernicious parasites known as property "caretakers," whose presence usually denotes a racket being worked either by absentee tenants or absentee landlords. The effect is that habitable property is not being properly occupied. The clauses governing this section of the amended Ordinance suggest that the landlords are the principal victims of these "caretakers," but there is reason to believe that certain types of property owners adopt the "caretaker" system for their own advantage. The main concern, however, is to see that all fit and proper, domestic premises in the Colony are being adequately tenanted at reasonable rents. We cannot see the law, even in its amended form, bringing this about, but the new legislation may pave the way for more effective action in the future. A concession which owners of domestic property will appreciate is the new right to recover some of the heavy costs of keeping their buildings in repair from the tenant. On grounds of equity this strikes us as being fair, especially as the maximum percentage so recoverable is only eight per cent of the total cost. This is to be spread over a period of a permitted increase in rent, but it is expressly laid down that rents now controlled by the Ordinance cannot, themselves, be raised. Undoubtedly there will be mixed reactions to the proposed new legislation, but credit must be given to the Authorities for striving to iron out some of the anomalies which the original Ordinance created.

Reindeer Are Wealth

By ODEN AND OLIVIA MEEKER

SANTA CLAUS is called Joulupukki here, where he finds his reindeer. Everybody in Finnish Lapland, like Joulupukki, drives a reindeer. Joulupukki himself lives on a mountain called Korvatunturi, which is not far from the Soviet frontier.

In Lapland he drives his reindeer straight up to the door and rings the doorbell—instead of coming down the chimney. (Inside the Arctic circle it is only the devil who comes down the chimney). And out of his pack he takes toboggans, skates, or a new pair of skis, for small admirers who have outgrown their old ones.

For Father Christmas's annual circular tour from Korvatunturi, he has only to draw on the local supply of reindeer. Since almost all Lapps and Finns keep reindeer, and twenty-five thousand sometimes turn up at a single autumn roundup, there is an adequate number. Lapland is still based firmly on a reindeer economy. A Lapp is

reckoned in reindeer, and since he may own a herd of 3,000, worth five million finmarks, his financial position is comparable to that of a British captain of industry.

Rangifer tarandus fennicus, the Christmas deer power, is about six feet three inches long and looks silly every year when his antlers fall off. Fortunately, they grow back by Noel. He is the only domesticated member of the deer family, and has been employed since Neolithic times. He can pull about two hundred and twenty pounds, or pack sixty-five. If he skids going downhill he can brake with his forefeet; when tired he lies down in harness until rest and food are provided. He can cover thirty-five or forty miles a day, usually in a series of long curves. A reindeer who follows a straight track has a high market value.

Riding Slipper

THE reindeer pulls a pulka, a small sled with a single runner on its bottom. The general effect is that of someone riding around in an old slipper. Santa's

sleigh is closest to that of the eastern Skolt Lapps who employ a sort of troika with runners, pulled by three reindeer. Reindeer, naturally, are guided with reins. They do not use a bit.

The Lapps, who came to Finland, from the east, are nice to their reindeer, as well as they should be. They sleep on reindeer skins, and wear reindeer hats, boots and mittens. They eat reindeer meat and Lapp spoons are made from reindeer horn. Surgical sutures are made of reindeer sinews. The poor reindeer supplies the raw material for all his own harness except for one bit of metal.

Reindeer milk is turned into cheese which is cut into cubes and put into Lappish coffee. The meat is always fresh in wintertime since it is frozen solid, ready to be cut into paper-thin slices and fried in butter. Reindeer meat is often sold in London as venison. The certified Finnish gourmet may daily with saddle of reindeer at his banquet, but the great Lappish delicacies are the bone marrow and the tongue. Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt tried the tongue when she turned up on the Arctic circle last summer, and she said it was fine.

Rush Into Hills

LAPLAND lives on reindeer, and the reindeer live on reindeer moss, which it scoops out of the snow with its forefeet. They can smell the moss under three feet of snow. During the summer the deer cannot be kept together in herds because they rush off into the hills to escape the mosquitoes and gadflies which lay their eggs under their skin and in their nostrils. In the autumn round-ups, after the first snowfall, the deer are caught with the aid of skis, lassos and spitzes.

The ears of young deer are notched with the registered mark of their owners, and for further identification the beast may have a familiar name—perhaps Pikku Soluri (Little Warrior) or Neata (Curved Antlers).

Government taxes are computed in the number of reindeer a man owns. The government, incidentally, is almost the only outfit which may know the extent of a man's reindeer holdings—to inquire of a Lapp how many reindeer he owns is a gauche equivalent to asking a stockbroker the extent of his bank account.

Money doesn't mean much in Lapland. Rich Lapps live very much like poor Lapps, except that they like to spend money on clothes, and may buy a little

extra snuff, aquavit, and French brandy (beer is useless since it freezes). But the favourite extravagance is coffee, and when on the social merry-go-round at Christmas, a Lapp may drink as many as forty or fifty cups a day. Lapp teeth decay very quickly on this regime because the enamel cracks from the effect of scalding hot coffee drunk at near-zero temperatures.

Their Clothes

THE Lappish costume is tailored of black or dark blue barathra—the stuff from which tailcoats and smoking jackets are ordinarily made—with canary and scarlet trimmings around the edges and topped off with a tetra-peaked floppy affair known as the Cap of the Four Winds. But barathra, like coffee, is rationed now in Finland, so that when the Lapps are at a loss to think up something to spend their money on, they just go out and bury it in the ground in a secret place in the forest, and carefully refrain from telling anyone—so that it will be sure to be lost.

Lapps are short, swart, stooped but agile, with prominent foreheads, flatfish noses and timorous dispositions. They used to be noted as great sorcerers and warlocks who were able to stop ships under full sail. They could also throw magic darts miles through the air at their enemies (one of the first guided missiles in Europe) and they believed in Thor and the Sun, and a host of demigods, demons, spectres, spooks and so on.

Reindeer sacrifices were especially appreciated, and heaps of ten thousand antlers were sometimes dedicated to Storkjunker, the lieutenant god in charge of all fish, foxes, bear, wolves, reindeer and other game. Storkjunker resembled a man dressed in a conservative black suit, except for his bird's feet.

Sugar-box Houses

THOSE Lapps who aren't nomadic now often make their houses out of Talc and Lyle sugar boxes, (presumably they know all about Mr Cube), but otherwise they haven't changed a great deal since they came to Lapland about a thousand years ago. They are technically Christians, but offerings of reindeer horns still turn up for the old gods at the old places.

Lapp babies are cradled in little pulka-like affairs, and as soon as they are big enough to run about, the children play "reindeer." For each new tooth, a child is given a real reindeer of his own to take care of.

"He who intends to marry looks out for a Maid well stocked with Reindeer... for a Laplander does not regard any-

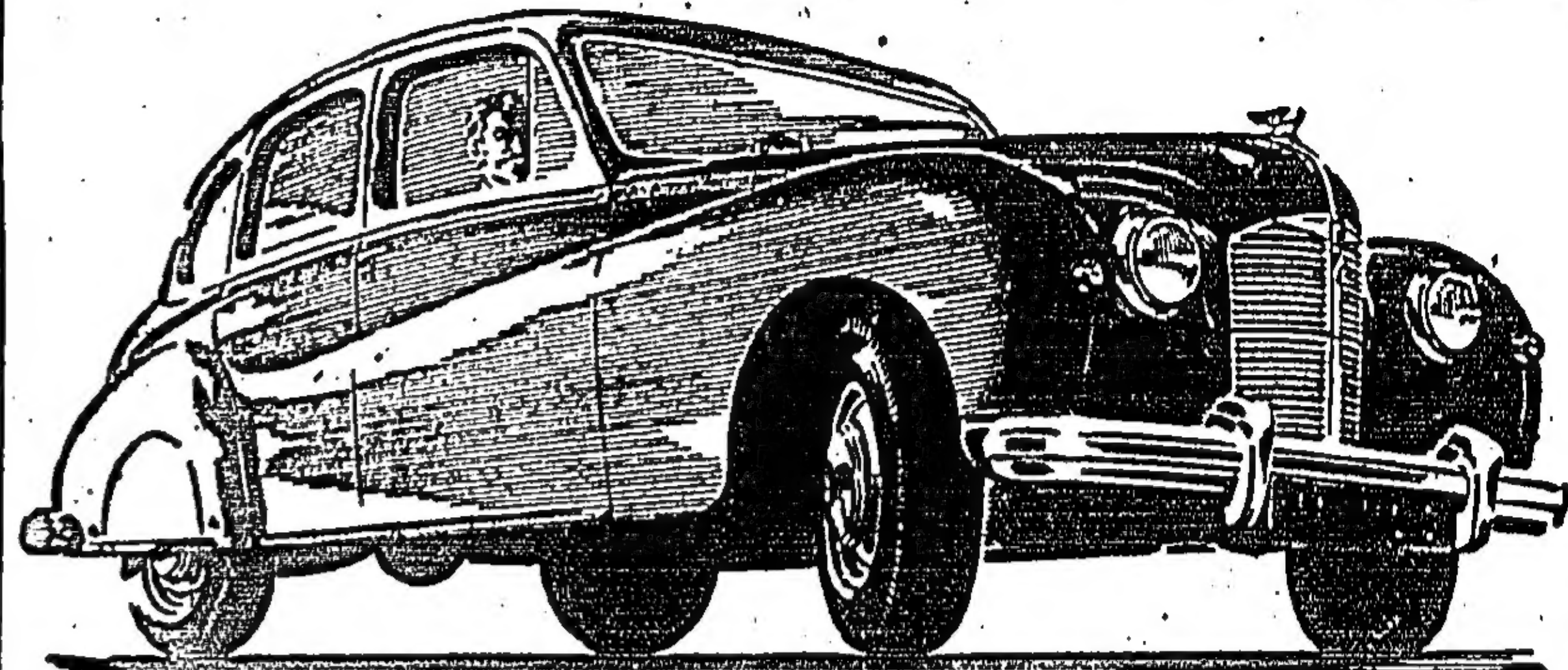
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APB5

AMERICAN COLUMN

Atom spy smiles and waits

From Newell Rogers

NEW YORK. WHAT price atomic espionage? For Dr Fuchs, in London, it was 14 years.

For a shy, dark-jowled little American chemist named Harry Gold, who carried Fuchs's secrets to the Russians, it could have been death.

Gold, haggard but with his head high, walked into a courtroom in a new brown suit. And he heard the U.S. Government propose that his price be 25 years.

Said Gold's barrister: "I come here to explain a crime, not to excuse one. This case forewarns others how easy it is to stray when one is misled in false idealism. Gold is the most selfless person I ever knew."

With a smile Gold walked back to his cell. He has given the Government all the help he can to track down other spies.

HOLLYWOOD'S first leading man has been conscripted. And before Richard Long answers his call-up, he must hurry through his last scenes for a picture called "Air Cade."

RULING by Judge W. Turney Fox on Hollywood gangster Mickey Cohen's court petition for a licence to drive his armoured-plated car: "It would be a fine state of affairs for people

to drive around in armoured cars promiscuously shooting at each other. Bullets might glance off and wound innocent bystanders. Petition denied."

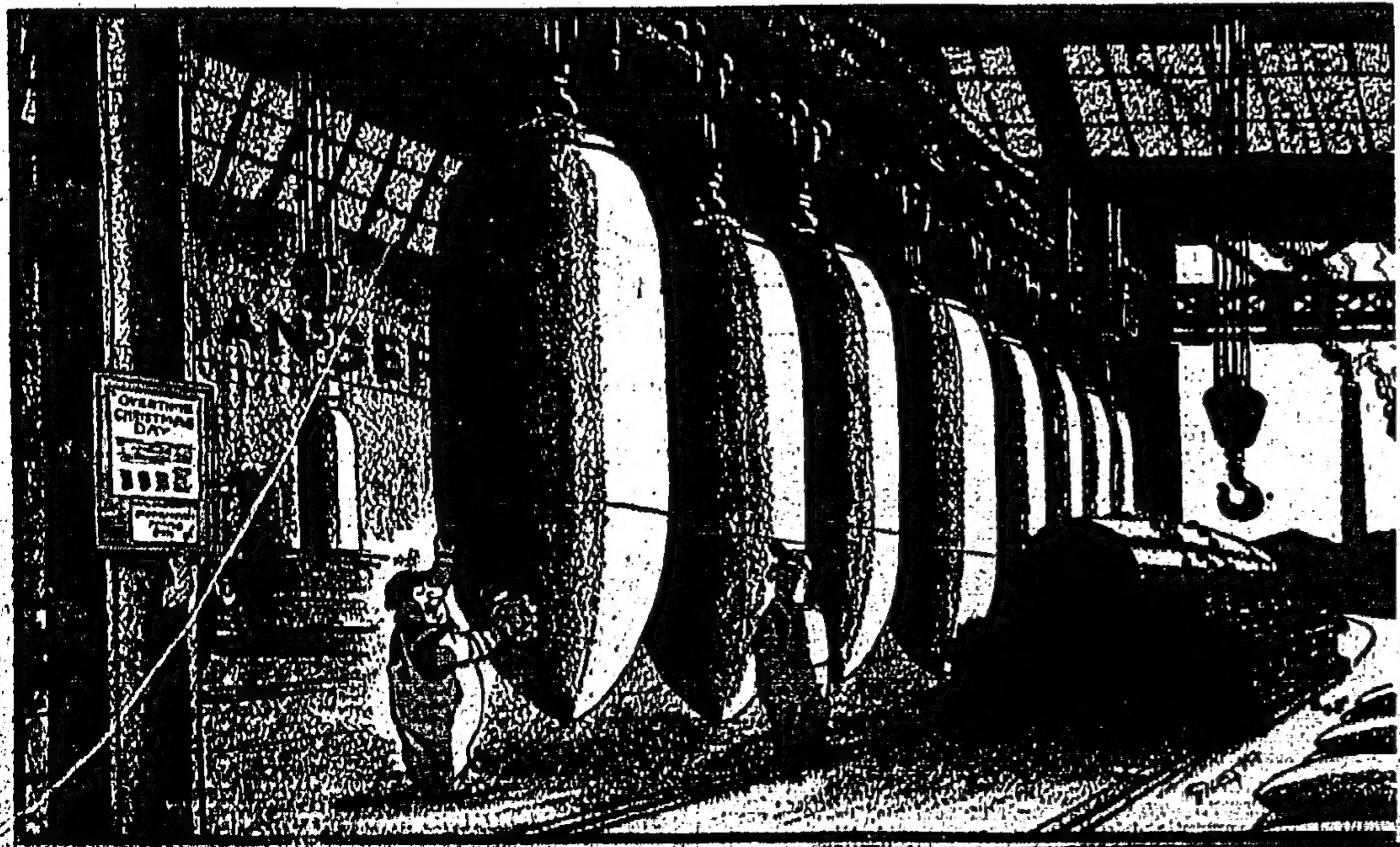
BANDITS drove up to the window on the pavement kept open by a bank in Washington's suburbs for patrons to make deposits without leaving their cars. At the point of the gun they "withdrew" \$14,200.

IS HOLLYWOOD about to lose interest in getting its frozen film earnings out of Britain?

The Film Daily believes so, and gives this reason: "The dollar position shows signs of deteriorating. Sterling's influence is expanding."

CHARLIE CHAPLIN'S old silent pictures are all the rage again. TV stations have taken them up. But station WPIX suddenly abandoned plans to show them in its "The Chaplin Theatre." They bowed to the protests of the Society of Catholic War Veterans, who dislike Chaplin's political views.

TINNED BEER and TV sets in the home bring anguish to American bar-owners. It is ruining business. Listen to one of them: "My former customers say: 'Tony, I got my own set now and drink out of my own jug. And I can leave my shoes off.'"



Last Minute Suggestions

CHOCOLATES BY SCHRAFFT OF HUSTON.

PERFUMES OF WORLD RENOWN.

WILKINSON'S SHAVE SOAP. FINE RAZORS.

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Hour BURL IVEY
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OSIDE BEATTY
FRANK BUCK
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Presented by 20th Century-Fox — At Reduced Prices

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SPECIAL NEW YEAR ATTRACTION

BOBBY DRISCOLL
WINNER OF THE
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BEST CHILD ACTOR OF THE YEAR
"THE WINDOW" "SO DEAR TO MY HEART"
SEE HIM IN HIS FINEST ROLE... "JIM HAWKINS"
WALT DISNEY'S
"TREASURE ISLAND"
in Technicolor

LIBERTYNEXT
CHANGEAs Mighty In Its
Flaming Glory As
The West Itself!HARRY SHERMAN
presents**AMERICAN
EMPIRE**starring
RICHARD DIX • LEO CARRILLO
PRESTON POSTER
Francis O'Flaherty • Charles Williams**MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN**

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



A SEAT IN THE STALLS

MOVIE MOGULS DON'T FEEL AS DISTRESSED AS THEY DID A YEAR AGO

Says Harold Conway

Do you recall that Hollywood economy cry a year ago? The distressing accounts of studio chiefs being down to their last limousine apiece, stars renting out their swimming pools, production budgets cut in half?

Christmas in London's West End cinemas brings some interesting sequels to that money-saving campaign:

HARVEY, with James Stewart playing stooge to the rabbit. Authors Mary Chase received £250,000 for the screen rights, a further £1,000,000 has been spent on the production—though how with so simple a story, I cannot imagine.

SAMSON AND DELILAH, in the persons of Victor Mature and Hedy Lamarr. Producer Cecil B. DeMille ("You can make a picture from any sixty pages of the Bible") has applied the customary touch to his 88th film—to the tune it is rumoured of £750,000.

CINDERELLA, in Walt Disney's cartoon version. Six years to make; cost not less and probably more, than £750,000. We shall have to wait well beyond Christmas to see the re-make of **QUO VADIS** (£1,000,000). But the combined cost of this film quartet would finance Pinewood and Eelree for two years.

1951 CHALLENGE
For British producers nowadays, a picture costing more than £150,000 is considered daring; anything over £200,000 counts as extravagance.

Will brains and artistry do the trick in default of big money? Can a keen-witted David Lean, for instance, com-

pete with a Technicolor Goliath? We have seen it done in a few outstanding cases during the past year.

In 1951 the competition is going to be the most formidable yet, with Hollywood's millions pitted against the British industry's struggling thousands—while the customers who judge measure out every shilling at the box-office.

SIDE-TRACKED?

Bing Crosby and Bob Hope, Hollywood reports, are about to start on their sixth "Road" picture—the Road to Paris. But the news makes no mention of their faithful co-star on the previous journeys.

What, no Dottie—after all that stooging for the comics on the highways to Singapore, Zanzibar, Morocco, Utopia and Rio?

Bing and Bob deserve to have their dreams plagued by pickets of film (and Palladium) fans bearing the banner: "UNFAIR TO LAMOUR."

IBSEN-AND ICE

My salutations, in closing, to 25-year-old Belita—Nether Wallop's own skating star, who has expanded her parish, and returns to England with a rich American accent.

Last year Belita was acting Shakespeare across the Atlantic; this past summer she played Techekov (The Cherry Orchard) with Charles Laughton in Los Angeles. This Christmas she will skate the role of Robin Hood on ice at the Empress Hall. Next year, so she tells me without batting an eyelid, Hedda Gabler is on her programme.

Neither Wallop, Hampshire parish of 7301 acres; population 610 at last census.
—(London Express Service)

Screen Fare At Christmas



"Africa Screams" at the KING'S Theatre involves both Bud Abbott and Lou Costello and here they are very nearly in the soup.

The Bunion Derby Era Is Now Old History

By CARLISLE JONES

Few film fans know how vital it is that movie love makers have stand-ins.

The reason follows:

For each moment of romancing seen on the screen, there's from 15 minutes to an hour of preparation; not so much for the lovers as for the director, the cameramen, the electricians, the hair-dressers, the wardrobe attendants and all the other crew members who have a part in making the loving effective and realistic.

If the romancers had to stand there posing through all that time, it's a cinch that they'd be far too tired for enthusiastic smooching.

And that's where the stand-in comes in.

For \$13 and some odd cents a day, he or she, or both, literally stand in for the players involved in the clinching, while the lights and the camera are focused, the furniture rearranged, and the director figures out just how he wants his romancers to operate.

Until stand-ins first came along, some years ago, movie clinches were mighty hard on the feet, and were often called "bunion derbies," and most of the screen's most famous wool-pitchers had fallen arches.

There have been other improvements down through the years, as well. Lipstick that doesn't crack off and leave tell-tale marks on other players' chins and cheeks is one.

A baby spot light which can be focused close on the lovers' faces to register emotion and eliminate unnatural shadows, is smooching.



"Girl of the Year," showing the genius of George Petty. at the LEE and LIBERTY Theatres, appeared on "America's Most Desirable Girl" and can screens as "The Petty Girl." Robert Cummings is George. It is the story of that Petty. All the Petty Girls are glamorous Calendar Girls born in Technicolor.



"The Queen of New Orleans," Loretta Young, an uninhibited Loretta, in the QUEEN'S THEATRE, man of Louisiana's Cajun countess. The Queen of New Orleans, Loretta Young, and David Silver in the

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DAILY AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

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THE FAMED PETTY GIRL COME TO LIFE
AMIDST COMEDY AND MUSIC!

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ALL TIME STEPS FROM
MAGAZINE and CALENDAR
TO THE SCREEN!

GIRL OF THE YEAR

COLOUR BY **TECHNICOLOR**

Robert CUMMINGS • Joan CAULFIELD
with Elsa Lanchester • Mildred Cooper
and introducing THE 12 GLAMOROUS CALENDAR GIRLS

Screen Play by Ned Funn • Story by Harold Adam • Lyrics by John Brown • Produced by RAY PETERSEN • Directed by MCKY LOMAX

★ SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE ★

at the LEE

— TO-MORROW —

AT 12.00 NOON

"Girl of the Year"

In Technicolor

At Ordinary Prices

at the LIBERTY

— TO-MORROW —

AT 12.00 NOON

Paramount Color

Cartoons

At Reduced Prices

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Free

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"Colour Cartoons

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TUESDAY AT 11.30 A.M. | TUESDAY AT 12.30 P.M.

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3 STOOGES COMEDIES AND

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ROXY BROADWAY

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daring... and a woman's fire

Joseph COTTEN • Linda DARNELL
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Directed by ROBERT WISE • Produced by CASEY ROBINSON
Screen Play by CASEY ROBINSON • Based on a Story by Frank S. Regard and Celia Sargent

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ROXY: TO-MORROW

MORNING SHOW

AT 12.00 NOON

"TWO

FLAGS

WEST"

BROADWAY: TO-MORROW

MORNING SHOW

AT 12.00 NOON

A Special Programme

For Kiddies

"All Technicolor

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Ask our Advertising Department to plan your 1951 advertising. Our Art Department will prepare designs and lay-outs.

WHY WAS THE LESLIE HOWARD PLANE SHOT DOWN?

A seven-year-old mystery solved

by ... **SIDNEY RODIN**

IN a hundred and ten words Mr Winston Churchill has just solved the mystery of seven-year-old air crash in which 17 people were killed, including Leslie Howard, the film star.

The mystery began on the morning of June 1, 1943, on the tarmac at Lisbon airport. A twin-engine civil airliner with a Dutch crew of four stood ready to take off for London.

It was a regular service for non-military passengers from a neutral country. The service had always been permitted by the Germans; it brought the morning papers from London for their embassy in Lisbon.

Not a trace

THIRTEEN passengers boarded the plane. There was the usual group of on-lookers—officials, diplomatic representatives, and foreign agents.

At 9.30 a.m. it took off and headed over the Bay of Biscay. Then, three hours later, for no apparent reason, the airliner was shot down by the Nazis. No wreckage was found. None of the bodies was washed ashore.

Many questions were asked.

Why was the Luftwaffe so interested in this plane on its normal civil route?

Was the plane carrying Allied plans for the next move after the German defeat in North Africa?

Or were the Germans merely anxious to assassinate Leslie Howard, who had just completed a successful anti-German propaganda mission in Spain and Portugal?

'Planned'

Of all the theories the assassination of Leslie Howard gained most belief. It was the one always accepted by Ronald Howard, the actor's son.

Ronald Howard declared: "My father's death was deliberately planned by the Germans."

"They were angry over the damage my father did to the years of propaganda work they had carefully carried out in the Iberian Peninsula."

Leslie Howard himself grimly underlined this apparent truth just before he left Britain in April 1943.

A sculptor was modelling his portrait bust. The film star told him it was more like his death mask, for Howard had a premonition of early death.

Now at last the mystery has been cleared up. The key to it is the late Mr Alfred T. Chenhall, wealthy income-tax expert, of Chancery Lane, London.

His cigars

FOR many years Alfred Chenhall was chaffed because he looked like Winston Churchill. He smoked six-and-a-half inch double Corona cigars—like Mr Churchill.

He had the same pink, cherubic face. He wore black homburg hats.

He went to Marlenbad every year before the war to reduce the portliness of his figure, but he still looked like Mr Churchill.

Alfred Chenhall didn't mind the chaff because Churchill was his hero.

Never could he imagine, however, that he was to die on the morning of June 1, 1943, at the age of 43, because he was so much Mr Churchill's double.

He was one of the 13 travellers on that Lisbon-London plane. Chenhall, brilliant chartered accountant, numbered among his clientele celebrities of film and theatre. He was likable. James Agate wrote of him "He was the gayest man I ever met."

But, more important to the Government, Chenhall was an authority on foreign income tax. He had been wounded in the first world war, and he was now working for the Treasury.

Chenhalls had flown out to see Sir Samuel Hoare, our Ambassador in Madrid, on a confidential mission. It was merely coincidental—and a good cover—that he was returning with Leslie Howard, who happened to be one of his clients.

The name

At the airport two German agents kept watch, alerted by the news that Churchill was due to fly back to Britain from Algiers.

The agents took one look at the passenger list. They saw the name of CHENHALLS—not so unlike CHURCHILL to a German.

They saw a somewhat corpulent figure on the tarmac, wearing a belted blue melton overcoat and black homburg. The man was chubby-cheeked, jovial—and smoking a long cigar.

It was Chenhall. He loved good things. He bought his hats in Old Bond Street, his overcoats from the King's tailor, and his cigars from the shop in St. James's Street often patronised by Churchill.

A 'CERTAIN WOMAN' SET ME READING THE GOSPELS

ANYONE who writes a novel based on the Gospels will realise that he faces extraordinary risk.

He faces comparison with the perfectly told original, but any variation from the original may bring him the anger both of scholars and of the devout. If he uses modern dialogue he may seem irreverent. If his dialogue is archaic, both it and he may seem artificial.

In his story of Mary Magdalen, *A CERTAIN WOMAN* (Harrap, 10s. 6d.), Victor MacClure poses these risks, and, on the whole, avoids them successfully.

Variation...

True, on his opening page, he writes: "Seated on a rock, a shepherd boy raised his reed to thread with tenuous piping the mingled bleatings far and near," a sentence which is neither



Leslie Howard... now the truth is known

In his pocket was a soft leather case full of cigars as big as the one he smoked.

But to the Nazis the well-set-up cigar-puffer looked very much like the Englishman they feared most of all.

Was it conceivable? Was his travel by commercial airliner a subterfuge?

They overlooked, or did not notice, that this smiling air traveller was younger and taller than Britain's war leader.

The Germans took no chances. A message was flashed through to the High Command.

Three hours later the airliner sent its last signal: "We are being attacked by several enemy planes."

Next news came from the German High Command. It issued a statement that its reconnaissance planes had shot down a transport aircraft over the Atlantic.

When men of the Dorsetshire Regiment entered Hamburg in May 1945 they found at the German air headquarters a report confirming that five Heinkel had destroyed the machine from Lisbon.

'Vigilant'

LAST week, in his war memoirs which have just been serialised, Mr Churchill wrote of that fateful plane journey:

"Eden and I flew home together by Gibraltar. As my presence in North Africa had been fully reported, the Germans were exceptionally vigilant, and this led to a tragedy which much distressed me."

"The regular commercial aircraft was about to start from the Lisbon airfield when a thick-set man smoking a cigar walked up and was thought to be a passenger on it. The German agents therefore signalled that I was on board. Although these neutral passenger planes plied unmolested for many months between Portugal and England and had carried only civilian traffic, a German war plane was instantly ordered out and the defenceless aircraft was ruthlessly shot down."

Mr Churchill concluded:—"Thirteen civilian passengers perished, and among them the well-known British film actor Leslie Howard, whose grace and gifts are still preserved for us by the records of the many delightful films in which he took part. The brutality of the Germans was only matched by the stupidity of their agents. It is difficult to understand how anyone could imagine that with all the resources of Great Britain at my disposal I should have booked a passage in a neutral plane from Lisbon and flown home in broad daylight. We, of course, made a wide loop out by night from Gibraltar into the ocean, and arrived home without incident."

One of two

MR CHURCHILL knew why the plane was attacked long before most people. Three years after the tragedy, Mrs Churchill met Alfred Chenhall's widow at a dinner.

"It was dreadful how you lost your husband," said Mrs Churchill.

"If one of our husbands had to go," replied Mrs Gwendolyn Chenhall, "England could best spare mine."

Mr Ronald Howard said to me: "I felt certain the Nazis meant to kill my father, but I am bound to accept Mr Churchill's explanation."

And the last word came from Mrs Chenhall at her London flat: "Perhaps if Alfred had not been so fond of cigars both he and Leslie Howard would have been alive today. But there is one consolation about Alfred's death."

"If he could have thought he was aiding Mr Churchill's safe return by misleading the enemy, I don't think he would have minded the manner of his dying."

—(London Express Service)

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By Milk



By Milk



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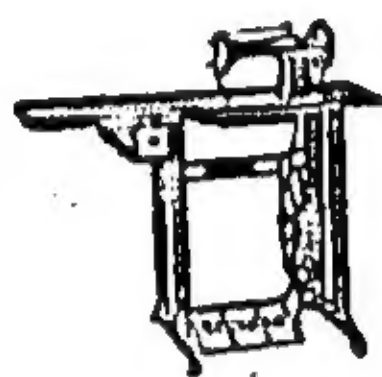
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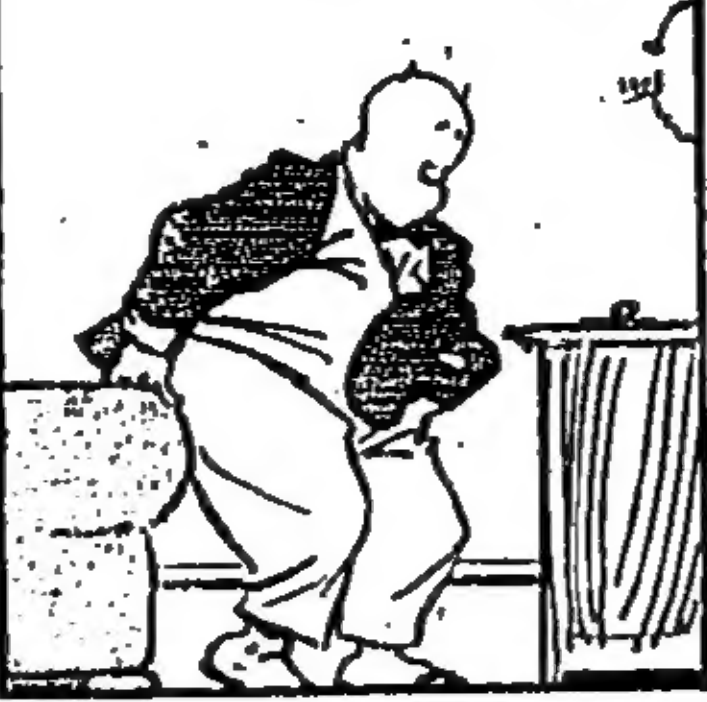
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POP

I UNDERSTAND DOCTOR



I WILL RECOVER IF



I GIVE EVERYTHING UP



Life sentence

THAT MAKES ME WANT TO



A race is on to test if 'everyone loves'

THE MAN IN CELL 9

by W. A. Crumley

IN an unrelenting Accra the dance bands and juke-box taverns are blaring at full volume, the current hit tune of Africa's Gold Coast.

It is a samba-like dance number labelled on the juke-box list as "Everybody Likes Kwame Nkruma." "Everybody" is lyric-writer's licence, for I found Kwame Nkruma in Cell No. 9 of the whitewashed prison fort perched over Accra Harbour. He was moodily stripping weavers' cane in the hard-labour workshops.

Nkruma (pronounce his name Nek-roo-mah) was one of The Six Ambitious Men who attempted to seize power on the Gold Coast in the riots of February 1948.

He was leader of the clumsily and contradictorily named "Positive Action, Non-Violence, Self-Government Now" general strike which collapsed after ten days.

Sedition ...

NKRUMA'S crime was sedition in an attempt to anticipate British plans to give a form of self-government to the Gold Coast.

For as the barefoot Nkruma stares through his barred but glassless gaol windows, the Gold Coast is beginning its first general election campaign. I flew into Accra on one of the hottest days of the year to solve the Gold Coast riddle: How powerful can a convict be when voting is going on outside?

The object of the ballot—which takes place in January—is to give the Gold Coast a popularly elected Assembly, the first of its kind in Colonial Africa.

A Governor—with a power of veto similar to that of the President of the United States—will remain as the representative of Britain.

Briefly, what will happen on polling day is that 84 members will be elected to a new central Legislative Assembly.

A Cabinet of nine—some Europeans, some Africans—will be appointed by the Governor, and must be confirmed by a two-third majority in the Assembly.

£50 deposits ...

THE election will be a fight between Nkruma's Convention People's Party and the moderates.

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE

by BILLY ROSE

YESTERDAY, at one of those cocktail parties where only pedregreed olives are used in the Martinis, I met a movie actress who used to dance in one of my chorus lines back in the '30s.

"Glad you're doing so well," I said. "You've really gone places since the days when you made a fast 40 a week."

"Have I changed much?" she asked, lighting a gold-tipped cigarette.

"Well, for one thing," I said, "you never used to smoke gold tipped cigarettes."

"Matter of fact I started smoking them while I was working at your club," said the actress. "One of your customers introduced me to them."

"Boy friend?" "Yes, if a man in his 50's can be called a boy. Remember Big Joel?"

"The oil fella?"

"That's the one," said the star. "Know something? I probably would be married to him today if not for these cigarettes."

"Tell me about it," I prodded. "Well, it's not much of a story," said the actress. "One night Big Joel threw a party at the Central Park Casino for a bunch of his pals—Jimmy Walker, Billy Seeman, Jules Glazner and that crowd. And it was quite a shindig—guinea hen under glass, buckets of champagne and gold-tipped cigarettes on every table. I was one of the girls invited—but what I didn't know until later was that Joel intended to surprise me and announce our engagement that night."

"Were you stuck on the big lug?"

"Not particularly," said the star, "but he was a nice enough fella and had he made the announcement I don't doubt but that I would have gone along with it."

"What stopped him?"

"It was one of those things," said the actress. "A little after midnight, when I came back to my table after a dance, I found my pocketbook was missing. I started to look for it, but Big Joel told me to relax and handed me a hundred bucks. I thanked him but kept right on looking, and when he asked me why I was so worried about the pocketbook I told him there was \$50 dollars in it."

"I had hardly gotten the words out of my mouth when the woman who worked in the ladies' room came up and handed me my purse—said she had found it under the make-up table."

"Big Joel looked at me and grinned kind of funny. 'It ain't that I don't trust you, honey,' he said, 'but a man wants to be awfully sure about the lady he's going to make his wife."

Nkruma's party is the only one organised to fight an election, and the only one able to find a £50 deposit for all its candidates. Officially, the C.P.P. has, perhaps, 100,000 members, but the number of 6d. a month recruits is increasing as the prospect of "jobs for the boys" gets nearer.

Even this growing membership—only a minute fraction of the one and a half million voters now being registered—gives a false impression of Nkruma's power.

Municipal elections have shown that the moderates in the five towns are politically apathetic or afraid, and most of them stay at home on polling day. Nkruma's party has been able to get landslide victories purely by opposition default.

Vast education campaigns—by leaflets and mobile cinemas—are now being conducted to counter this apathy. Since many of the population of the Gold Coast are illiterate, instructions for getting on the electoral register have been simplified by the use of pin-men illustrations.

For example: people are being told they may vote: (1) If they are British (a pin-man waving a Union Jack gets the idea home); (2) If they are 21 (a picture of a baptism certificate explains it); and (3) If they have paid their levy (for this, there is a little man holding two bags marked with the £ sign).

Dollars ...

THE daring nature of Britain's experiment in transferring power to political novices—and the importance of education in voting—is shown by a look at the Gold Coast's balance sheet.

Nearly half the world's cocoa, gold, manganese, timber, bauxite, and diamonds—all these help the Gold Coast to scoop £240,000,000 a year in dollars into the pool.

I went to see Prison Graduate Komla Gbedemah, the "strong man" who, released from gaol eight months ago after a term for publishing false news, is reorganising the party for the man in cell No. 9.

He sat in the absent chairman's seat at the three-roomed party headquarters. Nkruma's books still on the desk—a Koran in English, "Hegel to Marx," and Quintin Hogg's "The Purpose of Parliament" among them.

He said: "I will say or do nothing disloyal to Kwame."

He realises that the new Constitution is not full self-government; that even were his party to capture every possible seat it must certainly remain a minority in Parliament.

I asked if he was prepared to try to make the Constitution work, to accept majority decisions in Parliament. "It all depends if the Governor is reasonable about (Continued on Page 18, Col. 6)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Lane, Crawford's
BREAD & CAKES

will be on Sale

TO-MORROW (DEC. 24th)

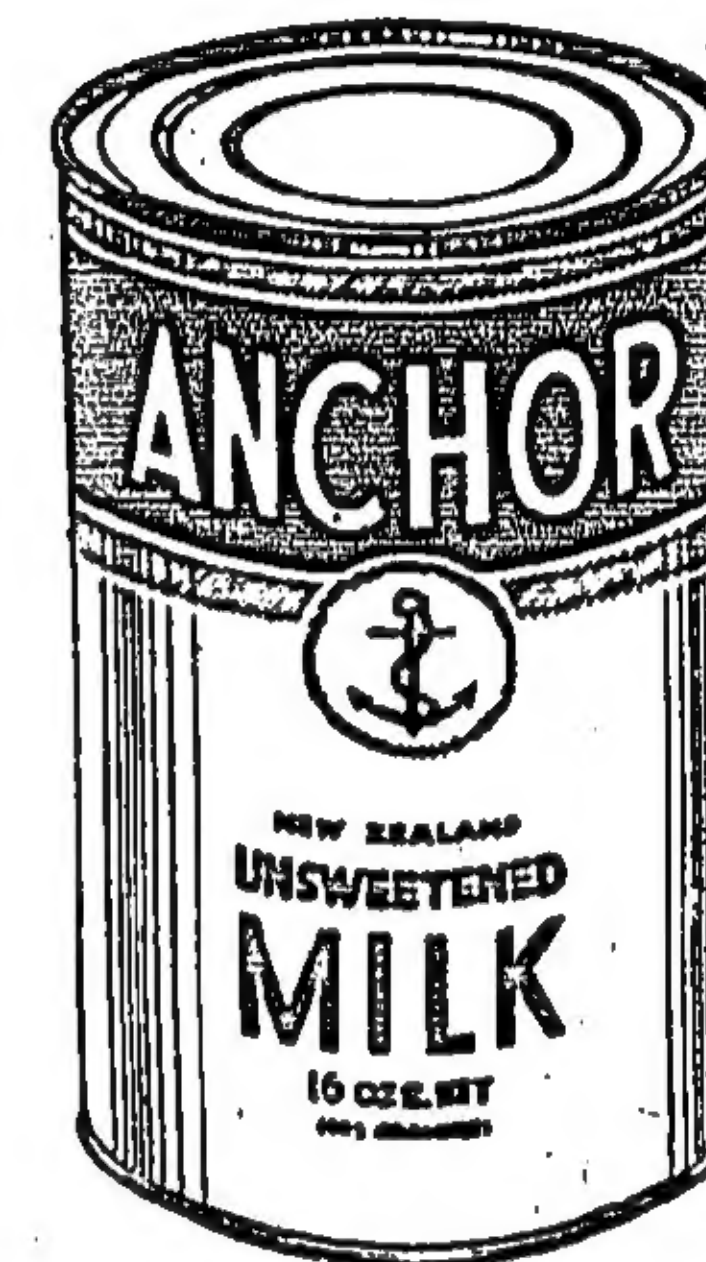
between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
in the cake dept. (ground floor)

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& BOXING DAY

between 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
each day in the vestibule
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N.B. OUR STORE WILL REMAIN OPEN
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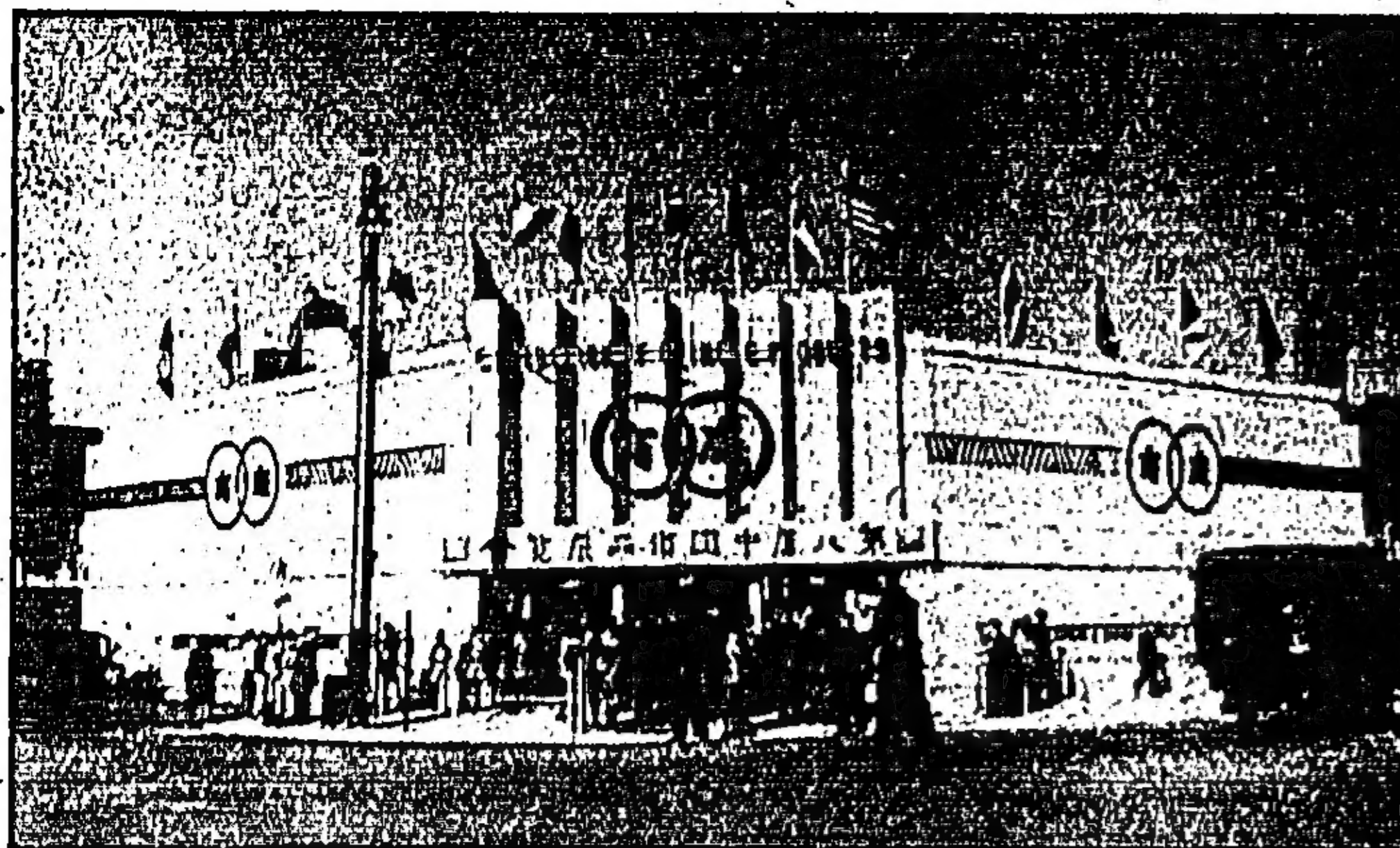
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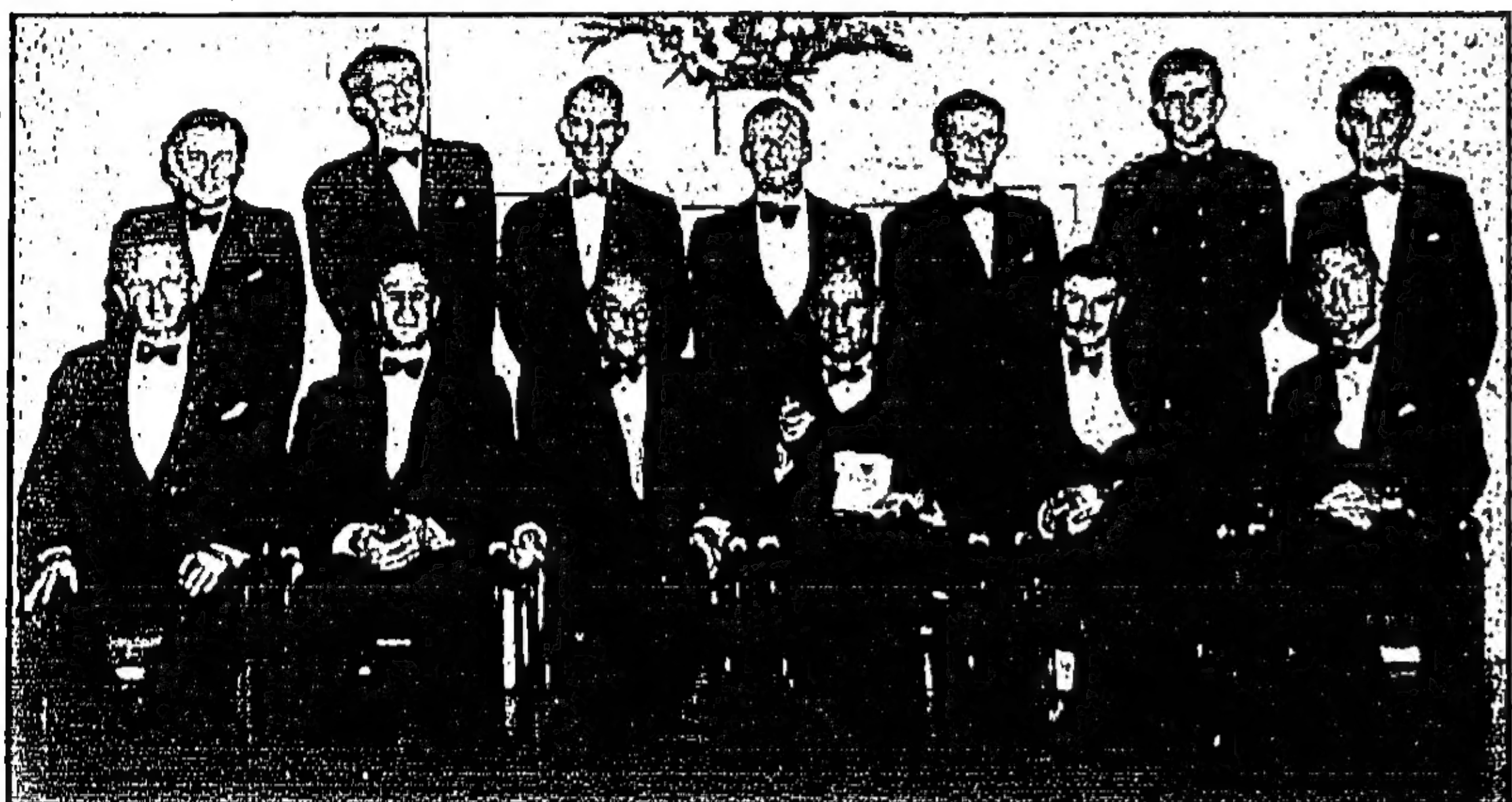
Celebrating Walk-Overs 75 years
of shoe making.



AT the eighth annual exhibition of Hongkong products, organised by the Hongkong Chinese Manufacturers' Union, which opened last week, hundreds of articles manufactured in this Colony are being shown. A view of the imposing entrance to the exhibition is shown above. Right: HE the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, being conducted around the exhibition by officials of the Union. (Staff Photographer)



MR and Mrs George T. Y. Chu and friends after their wedding last Saturday at St Andrew's Church. The bride was formerly Miss Iris Sun. (Staff Photographer)



MEMBERS of the Old Carthusians' Club who attended a Founder's Day dinner at the Hongkong Club last week. (Era)



SCENE at Stoncutters Island last Sunday when shooting in the Inter-Colony Postal Targets Competition took place. (Staff Photographer)



OFFICERS of the St John Ambulance Brigade and guests at their annual mess dinner, held at St John Headquarters last week. (Staff Photographer)



BRIDAL group outside the Roman Catholic Cathedral after the wedding of Mr Tan Tock-khong and Miss Mary Wong. (King's)



HONGKONG'S Christmas gifts to British troops in Korea. Parcels leaving the YWCA hostel for Kai Tak, where they were flown by special plane to Pusan. (Staff Photographer)



LITTLE Veronica Baggot receiving a prize from Mrs L. S. Pearson at the annual prizegiving of the Kennedy Road School on Monday. (Staff Photographer)

BELOW: The choir of the Hop Yat Church at their annual Christmas concert. The performance was of a high standard. (Staff Photographer)



THE Crescendo Chorus, conducted by Prof. Chao Mō-pa, at their recital last week at the Hongkong Hotel. The well-chosen programme was delightfully rendered. (Staff Photographer)



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and ENTERTAINMENT.

GALA DINNER DANCES.

Christmas Eve — December 24th
HONGKONG HOTEL
PENINSULA HOTEL
REPULSE BAY HOTEL

New Year's Eve — December 31st
HONGKONG HOTEL
PENINSULA HOTEL
REPULSE BAY HOTEL
"LIDO" REPULSE BAY

TEA DANCES — 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. REPULSE BAY HOTEL

CHRISTMAS EVE — Dec. 24th
CHRISTMAS DAY — Dec. 25th
NEW YEAR'S EVE — Dec. 31st
NEW YEAR'S DAY — Jan. 1st

DINNER DANCES in the HONGKONG HOTEL

ROOF GARDEN — Christmas Day, Dec. 25th
"GRIPPS" — Boxing Day, Dec. 26th

DINNER DANCE — REPULSE BAY HOTEL

WEDNESDAY, December 27th, 8 p.m.-12 midnight

CHRISTMAS TIFFIN — December 25th

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cap on the bottom. Presto—long, graceful, easier to apply.

Sole Agents

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CHRISTMAS AT HOME

A GIFT SUGGESTION

HOME-MADE SCOTTIE

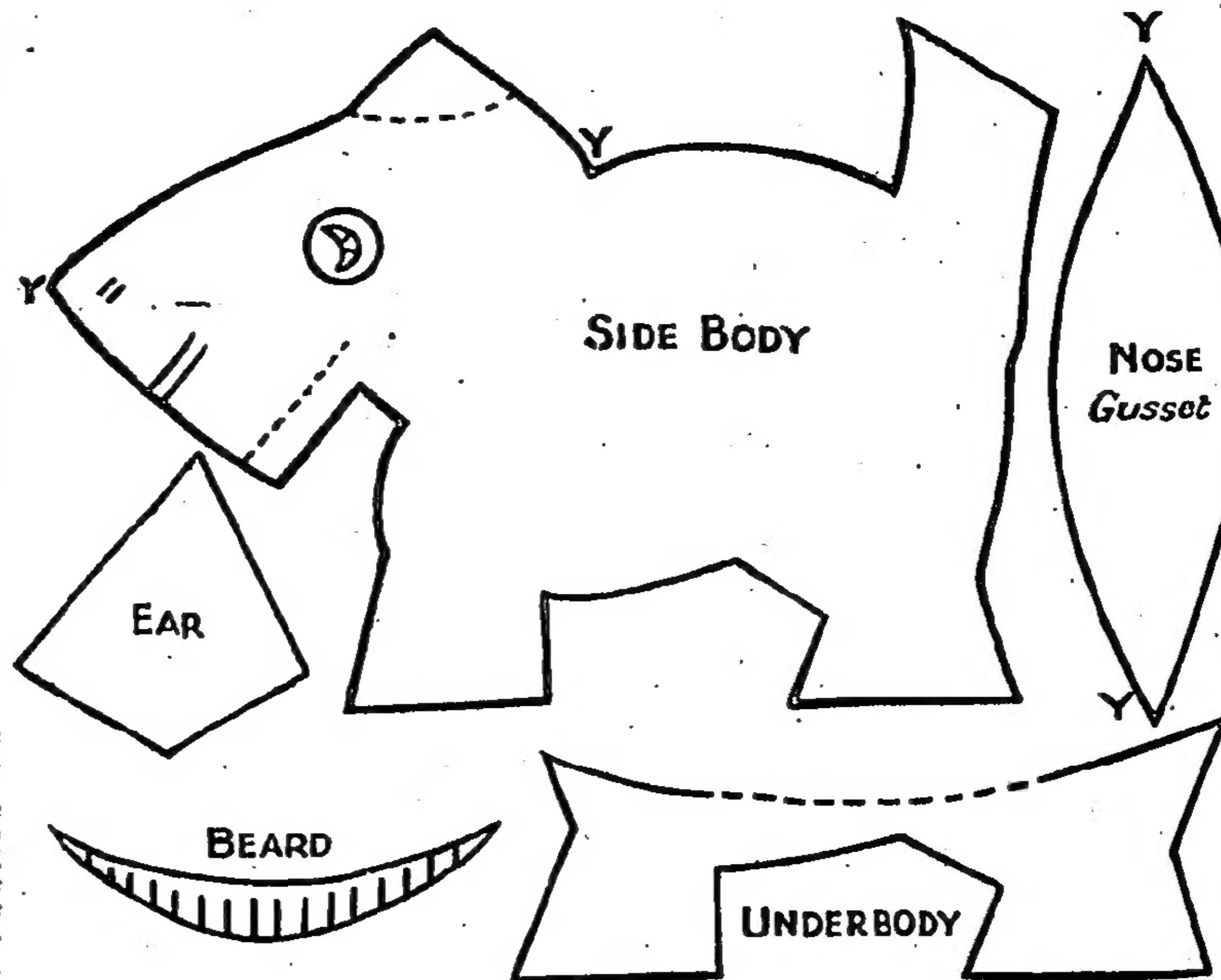
DIAGRAMS FOR SCOTTIE

INSTRUCTIONS

MATERIALS: A square of black felt, 18 x 18 ins. Scraps of white and brown for eyes. Contrasting wool or cotton for seams. Stuffing and Tartan ribbon.

TO MAKE UP: Draw up a paper pattern from the diagrams, then cut out in felt two of each piece, except gusset and beard; cut out one of each of these. Join under-bodies together on wrong side with sewing cotton, leaving dotted line open to insert stuffing later. Join under-body to side bodies by blanket stitching edges with contrasting thread on right side, then continue all round edges up to the two points marked Y; here insert top of head gusset, before finishing blanket stitching.

Stuff body firmly with kapok, or old stockings cut up, pushing well into all corners with a knitting needle. Sew up under-body opening; blanket stitch round ears, fold them in halves and sew to top of head where indicated by dotted line. Fringe beard and sew to chin. Cut out 2 brown circles and 2 white semi-circles for eyes; place white on brown and sew to head with matching cotton, making a black slit on white half. Embroider mouth and nose in red. Tie ribbon round neck.



—But is there a Santa Claus?

By G. C. MYERS, Ph.D.

Is there a Santa Claus? Of course there is for young children and for older children with a good imagination. What other symbol of goodness and fun fits so well into the heart and head of the little child? Old Saint Nick is king of all the fairies. And the little child from two to five treated with sympathy and understanding by parents who themselves have a good imagination, lives in the land of make-believe. These parents walk with him into his enchanted world and enjoy with him the precious creatures of his fancies. These parents can even see and hear these fairies and share with the little child the joyous conversation and companionship with them.

Did you ever drink imaginary tea or eat an imaginary lunch with your little tot of two or three? At this tea or luncheon there may have been some toy dishes and spoons or just tiny bits of paper or the like for such, or there may have been nothing at all. Yet for the little host or hostess every necessary thing including the food was right there. And what happiness he had if all these things were there also for you.

MAKE-BELIEVE

This same child at five, six or even much older may go on playing at make-believe, using more real materials as symbols as he grows older. But for the harm done by so many cold, bone-headed adults with skulls too hard for fanciful ideas to penetrate, and but for older children's imitating adults, play at make-believe, which is the essence of all dramatic arts, would not so quickly pass from the experience of the growing child as it does.

THE ANSWER

Back to Santa Claus. Suppose your child five or six or seven "corrupted" by the tales of older children, looks up at you and says, "Is there a Santa Claus?" He wants to know if Santa Claus is a real person who breathes and walks and feels. Answer him this way: "No, but we have been just playing he is a real person." Then go on pretending with this child as long as he cares to do so. Even though a child so young might not understand, it should do no harm to tell him of Santa Claus as a spirit standing for everything that's unselfish, good, and lovely.

MORAL HARM

Moral harm to the older child may be done by parents and teachers who try to foil Santa Claus on him after he has been disillusioned.

Incidentally, I believe it wise to have some Christmas gifts to the child as young as three or four marked as from the real person who gave them, thus making his meeting of reality a gradual process.



—and this is how your Scottie will appear
(—London Express Service.)

Unusual Beauty Aids As Gifts

Dorothy bags in vividly striped pink and black paper containing a bottle of Eau de Cologne and talcum powder, are among the novel Christmas gifts which are offered this year. Even a Christmas card is included in the bag. Flexi-Puff is an unbreakable bottle with screw top; squeeze it and the powder comes out in a jet. Women will hope that other beauty preparations will soon be packed in containers like these for it would certainly revolutionize packing.

Another newcomer to the dressing-table is a Flexi-Spray which is a "w" flexible perfume bottle with screw top that sets a jet of perfume sideways when pressed. Then there is a bottle of Eau de Cologne with a hand bag perfume-holder attached. The little holder has no cap or stopper to take out. All that is necessary is to press the top on the hand or handkerchief; this pushes back a little ball and releases the perfume.

Your last-minute shopping

When doing your last-minute Christmas shopping and if you still don't know what to give, buy luxury gifts. These are not necessarily expensive presents, but they are things which people would consider extravagance to buy for themselves.

FOR WOMEN GIVE

Seaweed made from fine Indian saris, in gauzy and transparent materials, some heavily embroidered, some shot with gold thread.
.....Subscription to a glossy fashion magazine.
.....Dressy suede gloves, long or shorties.
.....Perfumes or even toilet water.
.....Artificial flowers.



Party hair style for a small girl. It is cool, comfortable—and girly. The hair is parted in the centre with the side pieces taken up into a "coronet" plait across the crown and kept in place with two bows.

Cooking A Turkey — Properly

By Ida Bailey Allen

"Oh, Mrs. Allen, could you tell me how to cook my Christmas turkey? I cooked a small one for Thanksgiving, and it dried out," asked a friend. "Well, here's a suggestion," I started.

"Should I use a double-roaster, or an open pan? How do you get those little black things out of the skin? Is it really true that poultry should be scrubbed with soapy water?" "Do you approve of an oyster and mushroom stuffing with turkey?" At this a man raised his voice: "My wife just makes a plain bread stuffing with herbs, and I think it's fine!" he said.

AT THE BEGINNING
"Well, friends," I started, collecting my thoughts, "it's just two days till Christmas and we're all interested in turkey. Let's start at the beginning. First the bird has to be singed to remove all fuzzy hairs. The safe way to do this is to hold the bird in one hand, and burn off the fuzz with a lighted candle. Next you remove the little black pin feathers. It's easy and quick if you use tweezers.

"Then the turkey should be cleaned. Of course, the meat man will have already eviscerated (dressed) it, but you should feel inside with your hands; and up under the breastbone you'll find a soft, spongy substance, the lungs; these should be removed. And in the two hollows in the backbone are the kidneys. Discard them also. Next cut the yellow oil sac out of the tail.

"Now, scrub the bird with mild, soapy water, and rinse thoroughly. Next cut off half the neck, but leave on part of the skin to form a pocket for the breast stuffing. Cut off the tips of the wings, and put them in a saucepan with the neck and giblets to boil to make a stock for the gravy."

"How about the feet?" asked one woman.

COOK WITH GIBLETS
"Clean and cook with the giblets," I explained. "The skin should be slit just at the knee joint. Then slip a wooden skewer under one of the hard

white cords you'll find and pull it out of the drumstick. There are five altogether. These are the tendons that move the claws. Remove them all, otherwise when cooked they become hard, like bones. Pour boiling water over the turkey feet and pull off the skin, as you would a glove. Now the turkey is ready to stuff.

"As for the stuffing, that's a matter of taste. You can use a plain bread-herb stuffing; it takes 10 cups of coarse bread crumbs. To vary this you can add halved oysters; or chopped mushrooms; or sausage meat; or chopped nuts. Stuff the neck, breast and body cavity with this. But don't pack it in. Remember, stuffing expands in roasting.

Pin the body cavity together with poultry pins, and lace them up with white string. Pin the skin of the neck over onto the back with two poultry pins. Then truss the turkey. The easiest way to do this is to tie the legs and wings close to the body with white string. Dust the turkey with salt and pepper. It's all ready for roasting with one exception. It must have a beauty massage with turkey cream." (At this point every one gasped! And I laughed.)

"For the cream, blend ½ cup margarine and ½ cup flour until very smooth. Massage this all over the turkey. The flour helps to make a tender crust and keep in the juices, the margarine bastes the turkey, and the treatment insures a beautiful even brown complexion after roasting.

TOUCHING UP
"Now put it breast down on a roasting rack in a big pan. Pour in 1 cup hot water. Place in a preheated oven, at 375 F. and roast until the turkey begins to brown. Then reduce the heat to 350 F. and continue roasting until it is fork-tender and golden brown. Allow 20 minutes to the pound, weight estimated before dressing. Turn the bird breast side up when half roasted, and baste three times with the pan juices. If it seems to be getting too brown, cover with a piece of cheesecloth first moistened with hot water."

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RECIPE

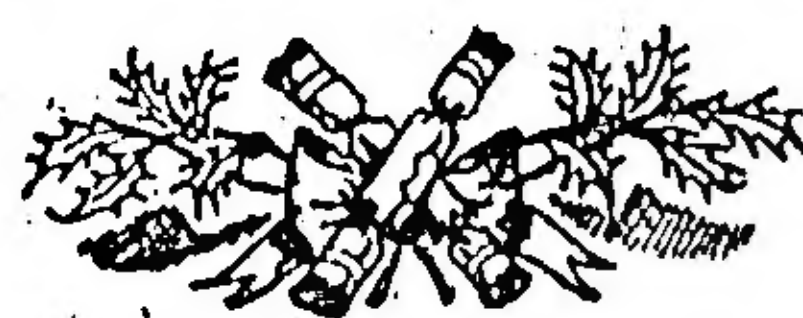
1½ lb. sultanas, 1 lb. raisins, ½ lb. currants, ¼ lb. mixed peel, ½ cup blanched almonds, 4 oz. dates; 4oz. figs (or ½ cup fig jam), 8 oz. butter, 8 oz. plain flour, 8 oz. brown sugar, 1½ cups bread crumbs, 5 eggs, pinch of salt, 2 tablespoons rum.

Cream the butter and sugar. Add the eggs, one at a time and beat well. Add the bread crumbs. Sift the flour, salt and spice together and add to creamed mixture, then the fruit, which should be washed, dried and finely chopped. Lastly add the rum. Place in well greased mould to steam.

This quantity is sufficient to make: — one 10-pint mould (serves 10); steam for eight hours; 2 three-pint moulds (each mould sufficient for eight); steam five hours; or 4 treacle tins (each one serves four) steam two and a half to three hours each.

BOXING DAY RECIPE

Put in a ground casserole alternate layers of cold turkey, cold stuffing and sliced apples. Moisten with gravy and top with brown sugar, cinnamon, browned breadcrumbs. Bake for half an hour with lid and five minutes without the lid.



YULETIDE WOMANSENSE

HATS GO 'FORWARD' FOR THE FESTIVAL — by Joan Erskine



Large black picture hat in crinoline, trimmed with white straw flowers. Wide velvet binds the edge.

Neck Beauty For Your Baretop Formal

— by HELEN FOLLETT —

YOUR CHRISTMAS party is here and you get out your new bare-top formal and are all in a dither. The only thing to do then is to use a foundation cosmetic on face, neck and shoulders hoping you can disguise or cover the evidences of a neglected neck.

No ordinary bleach will whiten the skin in a hurry. Those discoloured cells must fluff away in due course of time. They will do that little thing, as the human hide is always putting on a new coat of cells, dead cells disappearing, new ones forming. You can help along this process by using hot, moist applications. Dip a small Turkish towel in hot water, wring it around your neck and shoulders, change frequently. That is a part of the bleaching treatments given in beauty shops.

Remove the fomentations, dry the flesh gently, sponge with a mixture of peroxide and strained lemon juice. When that has dried, use your favourite massage cream, putting it on with up and down strokes from collar bones to chin tip.

A combination of white complexion and yellow neck does not help one to make the good looks grade.

A beauty worry of which one may be unconscious may appear in the form of tiny cross lines at the back of the neck; this usually happens to women who have taken on adipose tissue. These crinkles should be treated to long, upward stroking movements with fingers that are anointed with a heavy cream.

EVERY home-given facial should include a neck treatment.

If the neck is firm, but is inclined to look red and leathery, as may happen in the early spring season, cleanliness is not enough. That leathery look is the first sign of the disappearance of the sebaceous oil that keeps the skin surface smooth, of fine texture. Use creams lavishly, applying a heavy coating every night, rubbing it in with flattened fingers, using an up-and-down movement. This is the time to use a double mirror, see what is going on at the back of your neck. It may need a bleaching treatment.

London. THE pretty coquettish hats of the 19th century, massed with violets and draped with tulle, formed the basis of a new collection of model hats seen in London recently. The inspiration was the Great Exhibition of 1851, coupled with the approaching Festival of Britain, 1951.

Nostalgic Colours

Here were bonnets and toques of floating chiffon and velvet streamers, many with lovebirds nestling in the crown, almost all worn with forward tilt. Colours were nostalgically named—Memory Mauve, Royal Consort, Victorian Regina, Victorian Lilac, and Windsor Grey. Asge Thaarup designed the swept-forward toque illustrated, in rich purple Royal Consort velvet, with an unusual edging of dyed crinkled horse-hair. The hand-made gloves have matching gauntlets of the horse-hair.

A bonnet with a wide peaked brim, was covered with a veil over which white violets were scattered. A mass of crushed violets decorated the front of a velvet pillbox. An Edwardian tricorn was made entirely of Parma violets, and with this hat went a matching collar of violet tied with a velvet bow. Purple velvet streamers hanging down the back of a brilliant green hat massed with violets and feathers brought the Can-Can to mind.

The period effect was heightened in a gay white straw bonnet, with green feathers curling high in the air. At the back was a velvet snood for the hair.

The show was divided into two sections, the smaller one consisting of dainty hats of 1851 vintage, and the larger one exhibiting rather more up-to-date versions.

Festival Shades

Contrasting sharply with the delicate colours of the period hats were the new "Festival 1951" shades—Rocket Blue, Festival Gold, and Hangover Green. There were two main shapes; the jutting forward, straight-on-the-head type, and the large-brimmed picture hat.

Illustrated is a large black picture hat in crinoline, trimmed with white straw flowers. Velvet binds the edge. Crinoline—a fabric rather like coarse net, is customarily used for stiffening jacket basques, and is used for the framework of hats. Lately, however, designers have taken to using it uncovered, and the effect is charming, as the light shines through it, giving the face a misty look.

A Future "Must"

The newest version of the peak is a peaked brim standing well out in front, and the designers tell us that the "Forward Look" will be a "must" in six months' time. Most of the small hats shown had tiny brims; some had small brims in contrasting colours under the main brim.

Pillboxes have never been more popular—one was described oddly as a "peaceful little military pillbox!" Worn straight on the head, these usually have a very tall feather mount standing some twelve inches high.

Feeling For Contrast

There is a great feeling at the moment for contrasting colours. A hat may be gold satin at the back including the brim, and from the front look like a black fur felt. This is flattering in very large brimmed hats, where a softer light can be thrown on the face.

Materials used at the show were velvet, grosgrain, satin, elaborately draped chiffon, tulle, scarlet straw, plaited Swiss straw, and log-horn straw. The gold shades varied from palest lemon to soft hazel-nut brown. One hat was described as being the colour of flat champagne when all the bubbles have gone and only soft-lit romance remains!

On the larger hats were split curled brims, asymmetrical cut brims, lily-like curls cut into the brims, and masses of flowers loading them. Seldom have more flowers been seen at a show. One hat was simply a tiny basket complete with handle, filled to overflowing with violets and bright mimosa. Wings and big pink roses were held in place by floating chiffon ties. White violets, white heather and velling; apple blossom and a white dove; black and pink peonies on candy-striped satin; glove gauntlets filled with pink roses; massed black marguerites on pale gold straw, were just a few of the prettiest ideas.

And to finish—the richly-jewelled hats for evening and cocktail occasions. Nile green satin encrusted with gold, emeralds and topaz, made a neat flat hat which dipped slightly each side. Shiny coal-black satin made a version of the eggshell cap, the jagged edges glittering with diamante. A pixie hat in white satin sparkled with multi-coloured jewels, and a thick veil descending to the shoulders, left the face free.

Increase Hat Consciousness

The aim of the Associated Millinery Designers of London is to increase hat consciousness throughout the country; in particular, they are trying to make London a hat centre. By a persistent advertising campaign, in which the slogan is "A hat makes all the difference" this aim is gradually being realised. Women are certainly becoming more interested in hats—and this applies, also, to younger girls, who are finding the new, simple styles easy to wear.



Asge Thaarup's period hat—vintage 1851—is a coquettish model in Royal Consort. Purple velvet crown is edged with dyed crinkled horse-hair with gloves to match.

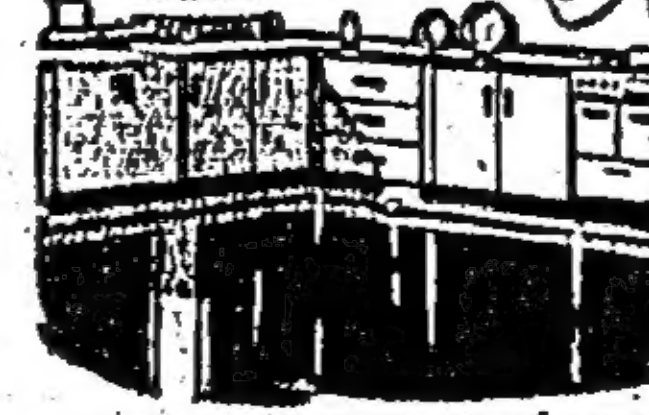
Check your friend's fashion-sense at your party by Fashion Quiz

- Who is the Queen's dress-maker, and also the leader of the Incorporated Society of London Fashion Designers?
- Who is the world famous milliner who designs hats for the Royal Family?
- Name three well-known Paris couturiers.
- Who introduced the "New Look" and when?
- What is the synthetic material that ruined the silk trade?
- What is the new exaggerated eye make-up called?
- What do the terms gauge and denier mean to you?
- To which era do short skirts, cloche hats, long cigarette holders and a shingled hair belong?
- Is it correct to wear a hat at a cocktail party?
- In which country is the wearing of evening hats in restaurants banned? (with evening dress).
- What world-famous material is at present having a greater boom than when it was favoured by Queen Victoria in the last century? And from what country does it come?
- What was the original name of a brassiere?
- What were suspenders originally called?
- Which of the following materials would not be used for a suit: barathen, hopsack, tweed, chiffon, faille?
- Name three or more materials popular for summer dresses.
- Waistcoats have become very popular lately, especially the embroidered variety. To what period of history do they belong?
- The sarong is often used nowadays to form the basic design of an evening dress. From which country did it come first?
- Guess what this name refers to: Is it animal, vegetable or mineral? The "Grafton Poedle"?
- What is a switch?
- Name three types of hats for women.
- What is the world's most expensive fur?
- Name three types of hats for men.
- Which is the latest and most revolutionary type of make-up: Is it Facecote, Shiny, or Silk?
- How many different "looks" can you think of that have been introduced over the past few years?
- A new synthetic fibre is being manufactured that very closely resembles wool. Do you know what it is made from?

ANSWERS

- Norman Hartnell.
- Asge Thaarup.
- Christian Dior, Jacques Fath, Pierre Balmain.
- Christian Dior in 1947.
- Nylon.
- Doc-eyed look.
- Terms used in nylon stocking manufacture. Gauge is the number of stitches to 1½ inches; and denier is the weight of the yarn.
- The Twenties.
- Yes.
- England.
- Tartan from Scotland.
- Eust bodice.
- Hose supporters.
- Chiffon.
- Linen, pique, cotton, seersucker, poplin.
- Regency period.
- Malaya.
- The latest short hair-style designed by Raymond.
- A length of hair used to supplement shorter styles. Cloche, beret, bonnet.
- Mink.
- Homburg, bowler, boater.
- Holena Rubinstein's Silk, made from raw silk, into powder, foundation and lipstick.
- The New Look, the Petit Garcon or Little Boy look, the Blown forward look, the Masculine Look, the Doc-eyed look.
- Groundnuts.

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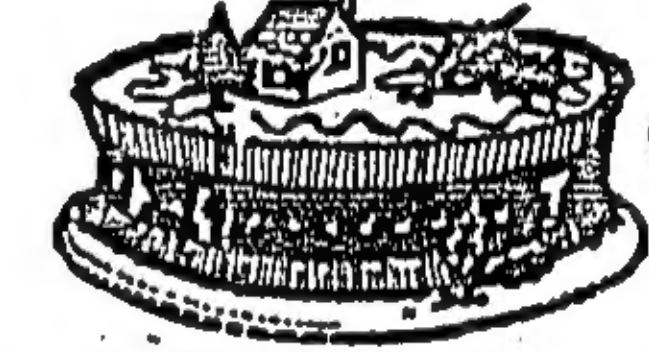


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Black velvet will 'make' your party wardrobe

by SUSAN DEACON

THIS Christmas your party wardrobe will need to stretch over a four-day week-end.

Interchangeable party clothes, which can be worn at home or dressed up for a more sophisticated evening, are the basis of a party wardrobe.

A BOUFFANT NET skirt or a straight velvet skirt are indispensable.

pensable. Make or buy your skirt in black, and wear it with a jewel-coloured satin strapless top or off-the-shoulder wool jersey sweater.

It is simple to cover a strapless brassiere in velvet, brocade or satin, to wear with your skirt.

Cherry sweater

IN LONDON SHOPS, I have found . . .

1 A full gathered net skirt selling for 5½ gns.

2 A boat-necked wool jersey sweater in cherry red with a scalloped cuff at 27s. 6d.

3 A strapless black velvet bodice at 69s. 6d.

I have also seen a two-piece cocktail suit in shot pout selling for 78s. 6d. It has a full skirt and a fitted midly jacket with cap sleeves.

FOR EVENING-DRESS-ONLY occasions I saw a glamorous all-white dress called "Thistle-down" selling for 10½ gns. It has a white velvet bodice and full net skirt.

Buns again

Watching the spring fashion shows in London, I noticed that many models, and fashion experts are growing their hair. There are signs that the bun will be fashionable again.

A NEW IDEA is to wear a coloured streak in your hair. These fake locks of hair, fastened to a hair grip sell from 21s.

FOR BLONDES there is a pink streak called "Pink Confetti" and a black streak called "Charcoal."



For the Duchess of Windsor. Embroidered satin over white tulle

FOR BRUNETTES or women with white hair, there is a blue streak called "Sapphire," and for red-heads a streak called "Amber."

For the beach

Highlights of the week's shows—

A TOWELLING beach coat in tangerine-lined black.

A POPLIN and pique sun suit in pink and black.

BAR-RINGS in diamonds, edging from the lobe to the top of the ear.



New Dior party dress for Irene Dunne in black taffeta. Note halter gloves and earrings worn high on the ear.



THE most popular figure of the season. Santa Claus surrounded by enthusiastic admirers of all ages when he made his appearance at the Christmas party held at St Andrew's Church. (Staff Photographer)



MISS Susan Owen Hughes presenting prizes for the Colony open hardcourt tennis championship at the Chinese Recreation Club last Sunday. Below: One of the children's races included in the sports programme for the afternoon. (Staff Photographer)



BRIAN, son of Dr and Mrs George Choa, blowing the candle at his first birthday party, with his grandmother and young friends looking on. (Ming Yuen)



THE Rev. Yung T. Park, who was minister of the old China Congregational Church for more than 50 years, opens the doors of the new church building in Caroline Road. (Staff Photographer)

MR A. W. Ingram (second from right, seated), who is leaving Hongkong on retirement from the post of General Secretary of the European YMCA, and Mrs Ingram (centre) photographed with the Board of Directors. (Staff Photographer)



AT the annual dinner dance of the St Thomas More Association. Upper picture (from left): Mr A. C. Chen, Mrs Fehily, Mr W. S. Douglas, Mrs Chen and Dr the Hon. J. P. Fehily. Lower picture: Mrs Peterson, Mrs Morrison, Mr V. Morrison, Miss P. Barton, Mr G. Noblett and Mr I. Peterson. (Staff Photographer)



THE Hongkong Concert Orchestra, conducted by Mr H. V. Ardy, seen at their Christmas concert given at the Hongkong Hotel last Sunday. (Staff Photographer)



GROUP picture of members and guests taken at the annual dinner of the Cercle Sportif de l'Indo-Chine, held last Monday.

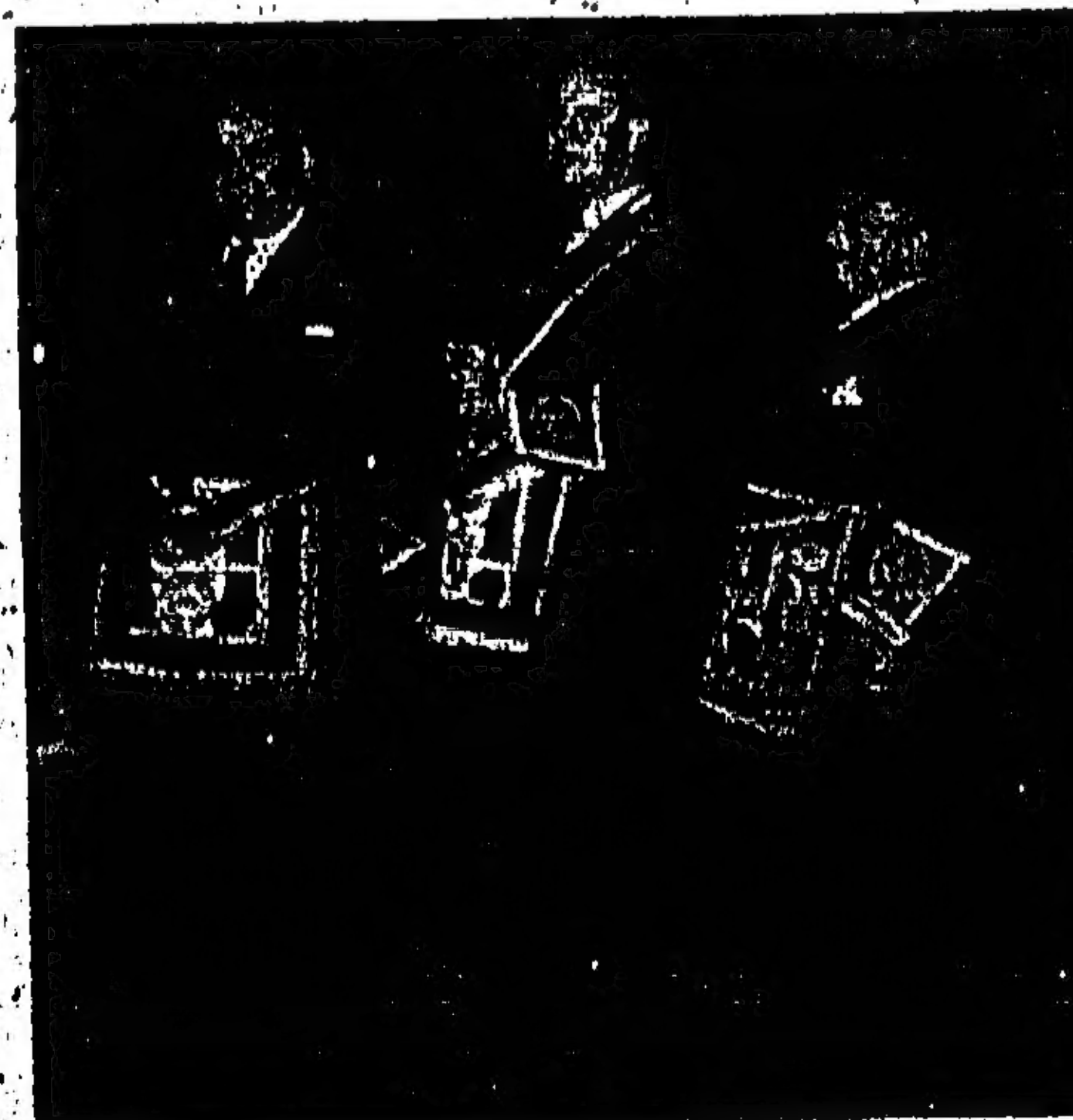


PICTURE taken after the wedding of Mr Wong Yin-hong and Miss Peggy Chan at the Rhonish Mission Church.



PICTURE taken at St Teresa's Church after the christening of Gregory Michael Charles, infant son of Captain and Mrs A. K. Paulger. (Mayfair)

BELOW: Nativity play given by children of St Stephen's Preparatory School. (Ming Yuen)



MR F. F. Duckworth (right), Right Worshipful District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of English Freemasonry in Hongkong and South China, and his officers on their way to the annual church service at St John's Cathedral last Sunday. (Staff Photographer)



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**RHONA CHURCHILL looks at
the newest thing in strikes**

**If you want a pill,
ask a policeman....**

RAMSEY, I.O.M. HERE in the Isle of Man they have something new in strikes. Thirty-four of the island's 40 chemists downed bottles the other day and announced they would make up no more National Health prescriptions.

They have kept their word. The island's 98 policemen, led by Chief Superintendent Kelly, have been mobilised as Health Service messenger boys, and are now dividing their time between carrying medicines to the sick and maintaining law and order. Those islanders who need drugs will tell you the whole thing is a "blooming nuisance."

Four-hour Service

LITTLE Mr Corteen's shop in Ramsey's main street, for instance, is still open to sell drugs and cosmetics for cash. But hand him a National Health prescription and he will politely refer you to the police courthouse. He has a "gentleman's agreement" not to serve you even if you offer to pay.

Round at the courthouse Inspector Gale, or his girl clerk, or one of his constables will take your prescription, listen to your tale of woe, and say "Your medicine will be ready in four hours."

Everyone here is saying "Our police are wonderful." Their station window-sills are littered with filled medicine bottles, and helmeted constables can be seen kneeling at front doors with little medicine bottles in their hands, or standing waiting in the dispensaries of the six non-striking chemists, who are now dispensing for the whole island.

P. C. Jack Cretnay is typical. I found him standing in Atkinson's (Douglas) dispensary at 6 p.m., sipping sweet tea, looking tired, and waiting for Mr Atkinson, who looked utterly exhausted, to finish making up Mrs P's "urgent" heart mixture. He was going to run it into Laxey Village, nine miles distant, for her.

The old lady's doctor had prescribed special pills. Her own chemist had plenty, but Mr Atkinson's regulars do not use his, so he had to send to Liverpool for them. He handed P. C. Cretnay a little bottle.

One Of The Few

TELL the old lady ten drops of this is equivalent to one pill, and her pills will be over by the morning plane," he said.

But P. C. Cretnay knew his job. He might now be a chemist's messenger boy, but he was not turning chemist. "You write that on the label," he said. It had gone on like that all day, John Atkinson was one of the few chemists not on strike. He sympathised with the strikers, but was not in their association, and he felt the sick should have their drugs.

Prescription from Ramsey and surrounding villages had poured into Douglas all week.

Ramsey police phoned Liverpool on behalf of a little spinster who suffers so badly from migraine that her doctor is now trying "something special." None of the non-striking chemists had these pills.

The Liverpool police obtained them, put them in the next plane, and the local police promised to deliver them if Miss S. was feeling "really bad" when they arrived.

One chemist ran out of several vital drugs on the first day. His dispensing business had suddenly been trebled. His wholesaler said

that getting a fresh consignment to the morning boat was "impossible," so he phoned the police. They put a fast car on the job and delivered the goods.

They Like It

"It's a game," the police will tell you, but they are rather liking it.

Officially the strike started because, the chemists say, Mr T. C. Cowlin, chairman of the Island's Health Board, gave them only a few hours' notice—by telephone—to make a charge of sixpence per prescription. That, said the chemists, was no way to treat professional men.

They asked for ten days' warning, prior consultation and notice in writing, of any new regulations. Both chemists and doctors strongly object to the behaviour and make-up of the Island's Health Board.

It consists of a baker, fishmonger, cafe owner, farmer, accountant, and retired fish seller. The baker is chairman. There is a Health Advisory Board of medical experts (doctor, dentist, optician, etc.) who say their advice is "seldom sought and never taken."

The sixpenny charge has been introduced to save money on the Health scheme. Chemists say it will produce £1,900 a year—a drop in an ocean of the £200,000 they point to the "unnecessary and extravagant" building programme—£157,000 for a hospital extension and nurses' hostel.

**Wicksteed among
The Gooks**

Seoul.

HAVE any husbands or boy-friends written yet and told about the fabulous Gooks? They are the inhabitants of this country, and in official Americanese they are called the "indigenous population." But the simple soldier finds it easier to refer to them all as Gooks.

The lads will be seeing quite a lot of them in the next few months, so I will tell you something about their peculiar customs, appearance, and habits.

The most noticeable thing about Gooks is that they're all so Gook looking. You simply can't tell them apart. The North Gooks we are fighting are exactly the same as our allies the South Gooks, and to the Western eye neither of them is distinguishable from the Chinese, the Japanese, the Manchurians or the inhabitants of Outer Mongolia.

Not only that, but in the winter, when they all wear trousers and wrap themselves up in sheets, it is hard to tell the difference between male Gooks and female Gooks. And those faces are so flat and similar that they look as if they'd walked into a wall in the dark.

They are all about 5ft. 4ins. in height, and fat Gooks don't exist because there's nothing in Gookland to get fat on. Their favourite delicacy is dried cuttlefish.

Cuttlefish are not the nicest-looking creatures when fresh, but they are even less appetising when rolled flat and dried till they are brown. To eat, they are something like catapult elastic, only tougher.

Callous

BY the look of their land, Gooks are good farmers in a peasant sort of way.

They are fond of children and kind to animals. But they are extremely beastly to each other.

Down at the Pusan docks the other day one of them fell into the water and sank. The others there made no attempt to rescue him. They just looked at the bubbles coming up, and laughed. When there weren't any more bubbles they returned to work.

They try their war criminals in batches of 20. I had one case interpreted for me.

The fellow had been the head-man of a village and the Communists told him to make a collection for their victory fund. He collected the equivalent of £3 10s., and the sentence for that was death.

There were no witnesses and his trial took 18 minutes.

Of course, just as they all look alike to us, so we must be puzzling to them.

All the same, they disappeared next day, and since then he has seen them protruding below the cleaning woman's trousers.

A Gook's Tour of the black market in Seoul is an interesting experience. Every kind of American equipment you can think of is laid out openly on the stalls.

The canteen had no batteries for my electric torch the other day, but on the black market there were as many as I wanted, all from the American Army stocks.

A Gook colonel who speaks English told me that he bought his uniform in the black market. There was nowhere else he could get one. He didn't think there was anything odd about it so a Gook time was had by all.

Bernard Wicksteed

One Of The Few

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Bernard Wicksteed

The theft

YOU hear of people who would steal the shirt off your back, but a colleague of mine in Seoul caught a Gook woman stealing his long winter underpants.

To be fair, he wasn't actually wearing them at the time of the theft. He had left them in a drawer, and he came into his room just as the cleaning woman was making away with them. He grabbed one end of them and she hung on to the other, and they had a real tug-of-war before he got them back.

All the same, they disappeared next day, and since then he has seen them protruding below the cleaning woman's trousers.

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Bernard Wicksteed

How to keep Dysentery away

Dysentery most common in persons between twenty and thirty, though not infrequent in children.

If you go where the sanitation is poor, guard against dysentery. Drinking water may be polluted.

Learn how the 4 F's carry Dysentery danger. The organisms which cause dysentery travel chiefly on the "FFFF"—Food, Flies, Fingers, Fluids. And they travel far and fast! The favorite habitat of these parasites is the human intestine. Once discharged from there they live literally "from hand to mouth." Flies pick up these parasites. They leave them on food, dishes, and from there we may carry them to our mouths. They live in milk, too. And a person whose hands carry the organisms may touch our food before we get it, and contaminate it.

Memorize these Safety Rules! Prevent dysentery! (1) Get flies out of your house—use screens, or flykickers like D.D.T. (2) Boil drinking water and boil its container occasionally. Cook foods thoroughly. (Organisms won't survive ten minutes of boiling.) (3) Wash eating utensils with hot water, and soap. Scrub toilet seats. (4) Wash your hands often—always after you go to the bathroom, always before you eat. (5) Mother should promptly isolate any member of the family with diarrhea and call the doctor at once. Danger of contagion is greatest in the first few days.

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MEDICINALS

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How to keep Dysentery away

Dysentery most common in persons between twenty and thirty, though not infrequent in children.

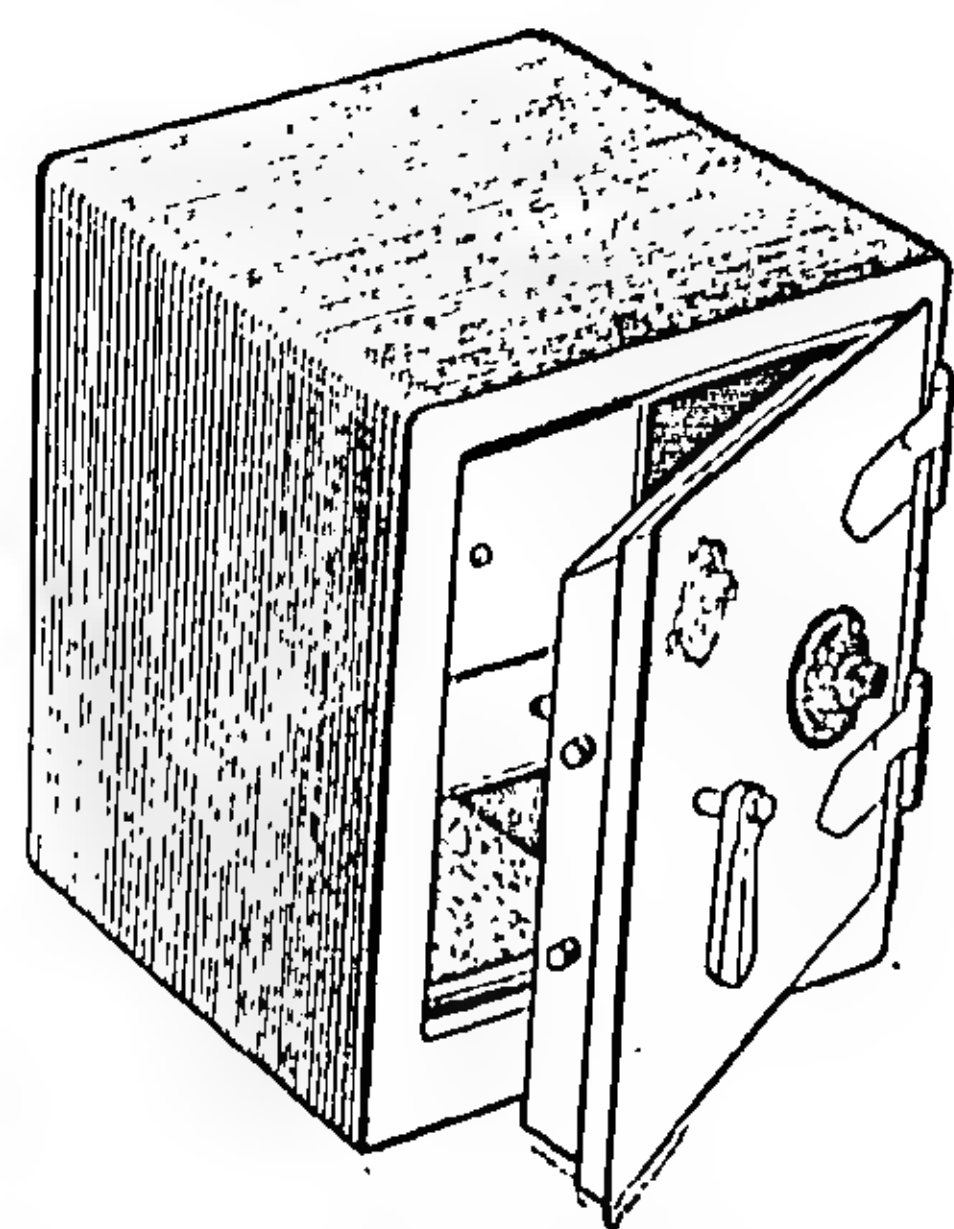
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SQUIBB
MEDICINALS

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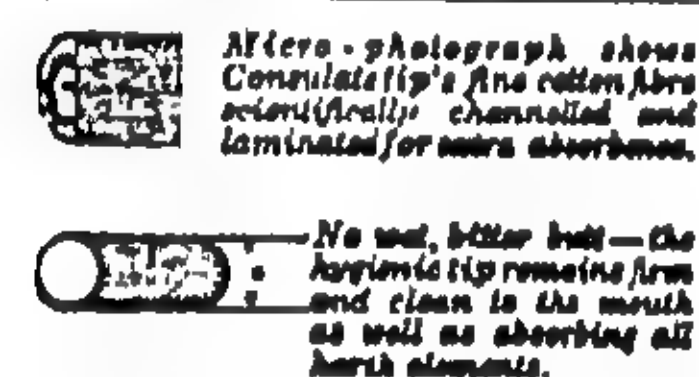
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CHRISTMAS POST DOWN THE AGES

How science and invention have affected
the romantic story of the Royal Mail

By A. V. ROXBURGH

THE giant plane roars down out of the darkness and comes to rest on the brilliantly lit runway of the great air terminal. From the offices and hangars come a swarm of officials and a fleet of red vans, and despite the chilly wind that sweeps across the vast expanse of the aerodrome, the great plane quickly disgorges its load. Piles of sealed mailbags are thrown out and loaded into the familiar red vans bearing the official sign of the G.P.O., and whisked off to the mighty sorting offices.

Another load of Christmas mail has arrived from some distant corner of the Empire, and within a very few hours of arriving, the letters, greeting cards and parcels will be delivered to their destinations, many of them having travelled thousands of miles in the matter of two or three days, instead of weeks, as was the case before the birth of the air age.

That brief picture is, actually, one of the last pages in our cavalcade of the Christmas mail, for the earlier chapters contain some very different pictures. We must realise, first of all, that the word "post" originated with the Romans, who ran a very effective courier service, and the points where these couriers changed horses were known as "posts".

PRIMITIVE

The courier service came to Britain a few hundred years ago, but it was a very primitive organisation compared with modern postal efficiency, although it must be remembered, also, that, in those days, a very few people only wished to avail themselves of the postal service, such as it was. In any event, no one had heard of Christmas cards, and letter-writing was a little-known art.

There were no letter-boxes and no post offices, such as we know today. The postmen were known as "post-boys," and they were certainly not the busiest men in the land when Christmas dawned, as is the case with the modern postmen. In the days of Charles I, post-boys were operative only once a week. Oliver Cromwell, who introduced many innovations—although he did banish Christmas and all its festivities on one occasion—certainly improved the postal services, but in the light of modern experience, they still read like fiction.

Here is a picture of those days. If you wanted to dispatch a greeting to a friend, you took your letter to a "post-master," the man appointed by the State in each district to handle the mail. The letter was handed to a post-boy, who mounted his horse, or the small cart by means of which some

of the old-time "postmen" travelled, and off he went, taking one of the six main roads, which were about as roadworthy as a modern country cart track.

Travelling at a speed of about five miles an hour, the post-boy jogged on his way from post to post, making frequent changes of mount. It was no joy-ride, however, for the main roads of those days were the haunt of robber gangs, who thought nothing of waylaying the post-boy, robbing him of whatever he was carrying—and often his Christmas packages contained money gifts—and leaving him at the roadside to nurse a cracked head and to think up a story to tell his hirer.

BANDITS

It must be admitted that the integrity of some of the post-boys was not exactly above reproach, and many were in league with the bandits who roamed the countryside looking for plunder. That was a far more lucrative occupation than being a post-boy, facing all manner of hardships and riding in all weathers for a few shillings a week!

In 1635, Thomas Witherings was authorised to reorganise the postal arrangements, and it must be admitted that he did a good job, cheapening the rates and speeding up delivery. He set up regular posts on the six main post-roads, and organised day and night posts, too, which meant that a letter could travel at least 120 miles in a day—still by means of post-boy, of course.

Christmas greetings sent to a friend in Edinburgh, for instance, would have taken about three days—and the post-boy could have brought you the reply six days after you had posted your own letter to him. Even so, Christmas mail was slow in those days, and you needed plenty of money to send greetings to all your friends.

MILESTONE

Thomas Witherings's charge for a single letter—which meant just one sheet, folded and sealed—was 2d. for under 80 miles; 4d. for up to 140 miles; and 6d. for any distance above that, in England. It did not pay to have too many friends in Scotland, for a letter to any place North of the Border cost 8d. and eightpence in those days was quite a lot of money.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century, the Christmas mail reached another important milestone. We find that John Palmer, a Bath theatre owner, lost so many letters in transit when carried by post-boys, that he started a mail coach service between Bath and London. By the way, the coach started each day from "The Swan With Two Necks." (What a lovely name for an inn!)

The new service was a great success and the postal authorities realised that the mail coach was a definite improvement on the post-boys. Within a short time, regular services were opened, and forty-two post routes were instituted. Every day, one of the sights of London was the convey of sixteen mail coaches that left the head office of the G.P.O. at eight o'clock in the morning, en route for distant parts of the country. What a glorious sight it must have been!

Try to picture the scene, especially at the festive season. Coaches, each drawn by four horses, decorated with holly; the red-nosed, silk-hatted coachman blowing a noisy fanfare on his post-horn. How romantic, and how colourful was the postman of that day. He wore a scarlet coat, blue waistcoat and a silk hat with gold braid.

PLUNDER

But there was always danger for the mail coach official, for Dick Turpin and those other highwaymen who have now become romantic figures of school-boy fiction, were ever on the prowl for mail plunder. Losses were high—much of the Christmas mail never got through, until it was decided that every mail coach should carry an armed guard.

Let us look at another picture—a true one.

It was Christmas Eve, around the beginning of the 19th century. The London mail coach, loaded with greetings and presents, had left Dunfermline on the last stage of its long journey to Edinburgh. The four horses bravely headed into the blinding snow, but as night fell their progress was slowed to little more than a crawl, for the road was deep with treacherous drifts. Eventually, the coach was brought to a halt.

The coachman unharnessed the horses and rode off to seek shelter for them. Meanwhile, the postman, armed with the armed guard, prompted by the

spirit that has always characterised the men who handle the Christmas mail, decided to take the mail bags and try to get through to the next post, on foot.

Days later they were found, frozen in death and buried in a great snowdrift—but the mails were safe. They were hanging from hooks on a post standing clear of the snow!

The march of progress soon brought bigger changes than ever to the Christmas mail and, in 1830, we find a railway mail service being opened between Manchester and Liverpool. It meant the end of the mail coach, and the dawn of an entirely new era.

PROGRESS

The time soon came when it was possible to post your greetings to friends many miles distant a day or so before Christmas with the assurance that nothing short of an earthquake would prevent their delivery on or before the Festive Day.

The penny post arrived. Christmas cards became universally popular, and the weight and magnitude of the Christmas mail increased to enormous proportions.

What phenomenal progress had been made since the days of the post-boys and the mail coach, but although the railway chapter of the Christmas mail cavalcade is still incomplete, another chapter is now being first World War, regular air mail. The first air mail was instituted as long ago as 1811, when special letters in connection with the Coronation of King George V were flown between Hendon and Windsor. A new age was developing. After the first world war, regular air mail services were set up. In 1920, the first Christmas air mail was flown from Britain overseas—to Karachi, in India—and it was not long before the service was extended, until the whole of the Commonwealth came within range of the air mail.

HELICOPTERS

Your own local Christmas mail is not, as yet, carried by air mail, but yet another era is dawning—the age of the helicopter. The time is not far distant when, instead of seeing great stacks of mail being loaded and unloaded at the great railway termini at Christmas time, fleets of helicopters will serve the country.

Can you visualise the helicopter mail, hovering about the sky like huge red dragonflies, and dropping down on to the flat-topped roofs of the post offices? A dream of the future—but not too distant future, for herein lies the subject for the next, as yet unwritten, chapter in the cavalcade of the Christmas mail.—(Copyright).



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INSIDE INFORMATION

By "MERCURY"

THE present grouping of Soviet and satellite forces in Europe does not indicate a threat of war in the near future.

Russia has only half finished the staffing and integration of satellite commands. But since July she has increased Soviet forces in Europe.

Laurenti, Soviet Vice-Foreign Minister, has visited Albania—Russia's isolated foothold on the Adriatic.

Egypt, unable to get railway coal from Britain, has ordered 80,000 tons from India.

Peace conditions transmitted to the U.S. repeat China's demand for membership of the U.N. Security Council.

The Indian Ambassador has worked out terms in Peking with the Foreign Minister.

Premier Nehru has sent them through his sister, Mrs Pandit, Ambassador in Washington, to Truman and Attlee.

Turkey has asked Mr Attlee to propose a supreme war council in Washington to direct the Far Eastern war.

Peking is now protected by two squadrons of jet fighter aircraft and a radar system.

China is speeding up evacuation plans for big cities.

The Indian Government has informed Britain that it will not proceed with joint defence measures if the atom bomb is used.

The U.S. Congress, impressed by the heroism of the Turkish brigade in Korea, will soon discuss more military aid for Turkey.

An Anglo-Argentine trade agreement is expected soon.

Russian officers of field rank are attached to every Chinese Army corps.

They have their own signals, transport, medical, and other units with the Soviet military goods to dispose of her surplus.

Reports that China would withdraw from Korea, planted by Peking on MacArthur's intelligence service, helped to achieve surprise in the Chinese offensive.

The King and Queen of Greece will make a goodwill visit to America.

British trade with Spain is hampered for lack of a sterling loan.

The serious problem of Britain's cost of living was discussed by Mr Attlee with President Truman.

He raised the questions of dollar aid for the British defence effort and help in keeping down raw material prices.

Mr Attlee took with him a full memorandum on the economic plight of Britain.

A new Commonwealth air training scheme, to include the airmen of Atlantic pact countries, will be discussed by Mr Attlee with the Canadian Government.

A factory making heavy artillery has started production under Russian supervision at Diergor in Hungary.

Several British Cabinet Ministers are seriously concerned at the deadlock in arming Western Germany.

Russia has warned Turkey against entering into any military alliance directed against the Soviet Union.

Turkey in reply has emphasised her right to enter into defensive pacts.

The United States will transfer several warships to the Turkish Navy in the speeding of Turkey's rearmament.

The U.S. Navy will also station more ships in Mediterranean ports.

New Zealand may abolish its own military forces, and British troops with the Soviet military goods to dispose of her surplus.

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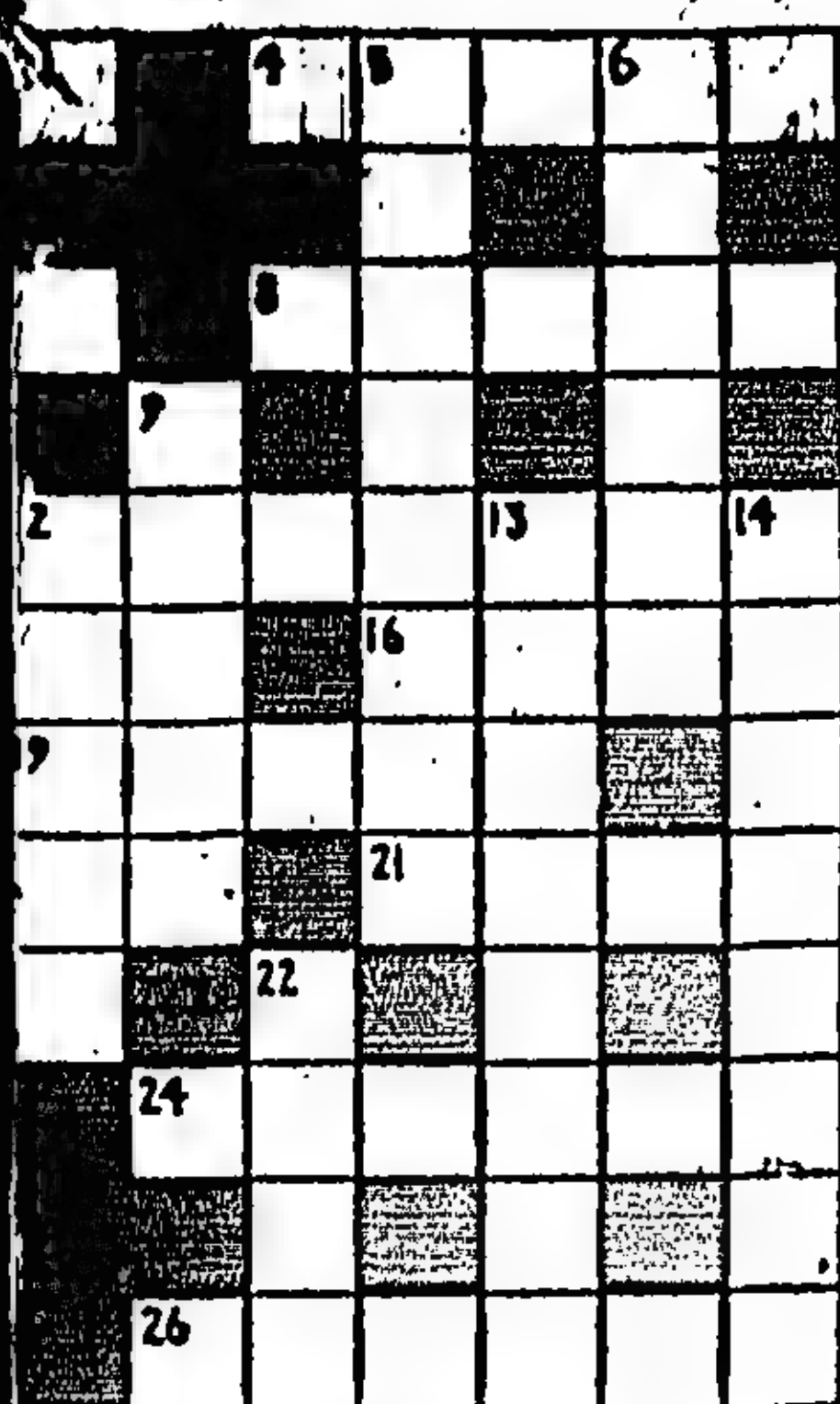
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Crossword Puzzle



25 Necessitous
26 Cold

DOWN

1 Feeler
2 Amaze
3 Object of worship
5 Submissive
6 Save
8 Changes direction
11 Attacked
12 Minor actor
13 Project
14 Seized quickly
18 Dig up
22 Commotion

Across: 3 Pampered, 8 Hubbub, 10 Oral, 13 Deter, 18 Siren, 19 Lark, 20 Sultry, 26 Disperse. **Down:** 1 A bet, 5 Peer, 6 Reverse, 7 Diddle, 10 Cue, 16 Placid, 17 Pranks, 20 Ness.

Archbishop. He plans to finish the story by the end of the year. It will run to 250,000 words.

Beauty Note: Museum Press tell me they are publishing a novel, "Untamed," by American Helga Moray, and, furthermore that Miss M. is good looking and sophisticated. We must wait till New Year to see how she writes.

When he went to Malaya, Major Jeffrey Lockett—tough, scarred and 35—left a manuscript behind. Admitted the major: "I'm more used to handling men than a pen." But, having served with the Chin-Legion in Burma, the Arab Legion in Palestine, he felt he had a story to tell. He waits to learn whether publishers think that way too.

Back they come. Civil servant Hugh Talbot who found fame in the summer of 1934 when his "Gay Pagan" won an Evening Standard Book-of-the-Month award, has written a new novel called "An Inch of Taper." Breaking 10 years' silence is Edd Barnold, whose story, "The Loved and the Envid," appears in January.



—THIS DREAM MEANS:

This is pure panic—an anxiety dream of the worst type, based mainly on physical discomfort of the dreamer.

Indigestion or colic has played a large part here, and has momentarily interfered with

the heart's action, causing palpitation. Or you may have found yourself lying on your back.

In short, this dream of utter paralysis—unable to shout, unable to move—is getting on for a nightmare; more physical than psychological.

BOOKS

Watch the curry, Mr. Bates

by GEORGE MALCOLM THOMSON

THE SCARLET SWORD. By H. E. Bates. Michael Joseph. 10s. 6d. 248 pages.

BATES wrote The Purple Plain: scene Burma; dreadful sufferings of white men after air crash. Then he wrote The Jacaranda Tree: scene Burma; dreadful sufferings of white men and women fleeing from the Japanese. Now he writes The Scarlet Sword: scene Kashmir; dreadful sufferings of white men and women in Pathan attack on a convent.

Bates is a good cook but need all his dishes taste of curry?

"When does the rapping start?" asked the Lowland lady of Lord Elcho during the Rising of '45. In The Scarlet Sword it starts on page 58. There is quite a lot of it, providing, as it were, a thread of continuity in a tale that is otherwise little but a series of brilliant snapshots.

Bates might now take tropical scenery and horrible atrocities off the menu.

* H. E. BATES, born 1905, Northamptonshire; joined RAF 1941—commissioned as first State short story writer in England under name of Flying Officer X; married with four children, lives in Kent.

A TOMB WITH A VIEW. By Lance Sieveking. Faber and Faber, 10s. 6d. 303 pages.



THIRD MAN OF THE WOODEN HORSE

Oliver Philpot, 37, tells his escape story of Stalingrad in his first book, which he wrote in three weeks.

with an ingenious thriller in which the English language is used with civility.

True enough, the tale is more than a little incredible, the pieces of the jig-saw puzzle fit together with all too complacent a click. But to so bland a con man, so adept a writer, let us be indulgent.

That a murder committed in 1914 in a grubby London square should be solved in 1945 in Monte Carlo is—preposterous? No doubt.

But since it brings you into the company of Walter Cream, that massive impostor; Alec Larch, a high-spirited artist with mysterious lady-loves; to say nothing of Mme Fornas-Mertz and Count d'Oznohichino, one a pathetic, and the other a sinister relic of Edwardian times—you should complain!

STOLEN JOURNEY. By Oliver Philpot. Hodder and Stoughton. 15s. 412 pages.

WHEN "John" and "Peter," the two escapees of The Wooden Horse arrived in Sweden at the end of their astonishing journey, they found that "Flight-Lieutenant Rowe" had arrived a week before.

"Rowe" was the third man in the escape tunnel which led out of Stalingrad through the sandy soil of Silesia to hope and, possibly, to freedom. The "Rowe" of The Wooden Horse is the author of Stolen Journey, which tells how Philpot, the third man reached Sweden.

It seems to be impossible to write a bad escape story. Philpot has written an excellent one, although in fact his dash for freedom takes up only a third of the volume.

He was a fast—and lucky—worker. From the moment he left the prison camp until he was hidden in the coal bunkers of a Swedish ship at Danzig, just 48 hours elapsed.

And luck? When his papers were inspected, the German police were so busy pointing out that his photograph had not been stamped at Dresden that they failed to notice it was not his photograph at all. When Philpot, travelling as a Norwegian businessman, swore in English, his German train-companions found it a very good joke.

Behind such remarkable strokes of fortune, we may reasonably assume the presence of a singularly imperturbable young man with his tritonic gifts.

THE WALL. By John Hersey. Hamish Hamilton, 15s. 632 pages.

THIS novel is based on the Warsaw Ghetto and its people and how they resolved that death in hopeless battle was preferable to destruction in Himmler's gas-chambers.

A terrible heroic episode, climax to an era of horrors, potential theme of great fiction. What has Hersey made of it?

With misguided but considerable ingenuity he has sought to make The Wall look as little like a novel and as much like a collection of historical documents as possible.

The Wall has to be studied, not read. But for the patient, the enduring, there emerges from so many words, so much learning, so much that seems trivial or irrelevant, a final image extraordinarily vivid.

An image of life still vigorous, human and dignified (although certainly not glamorous) at a level where there might well have been nothing left but animal outcries of fear and anguish.

* JOHN HERSEY, son of American missionaries in China; wrote A Bell for Adano and Hiroshima.

LIBRARY LIST

Winless Victory. By Anthony Richardson. Collins, 9s. 6d. 264 pages. The story of Sir Basil Embury's escape on foot from Occupied France in 1940. Adventure, told and illustrated with photographs taken, after the war, of scenes prominent in the narrative.

Pierrot. By Raymond Queneau. John Lehmann, 10s. 6d. 198 pages. A brilliantly amusing story from the French of life in an amusement park in Paris. Translated by J. MacLennan. Does into a lively contemporary English admirably suited to the subject-matter.

Through the Unknown Gates. By George Miller. Heinemann, 10s. 6d. 287 pages. In this novel of English country life, showing an advance in confidence and skill, Miller makes a strong bid for the throne of Anansi Thirkell. WORLD COPYRIGHT RESERVED. London Express Service.

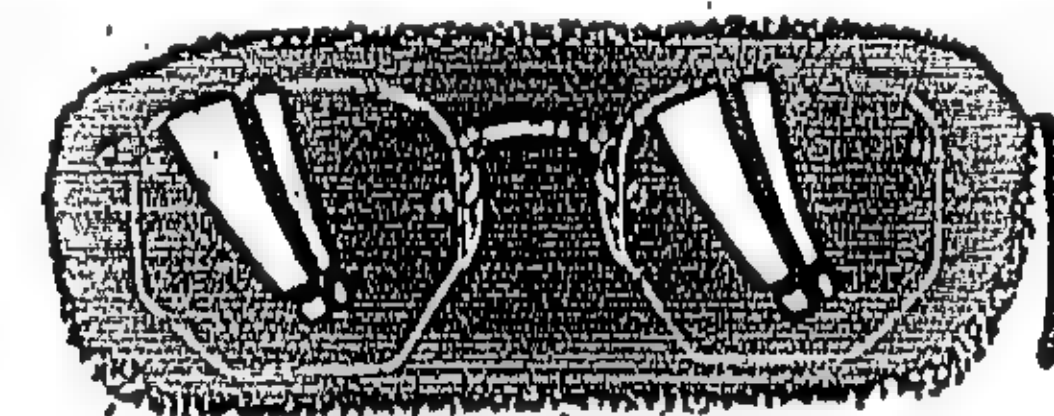


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VIGNETTES OF LIFE

"Merry Christmas"
By KEMP STARRETT

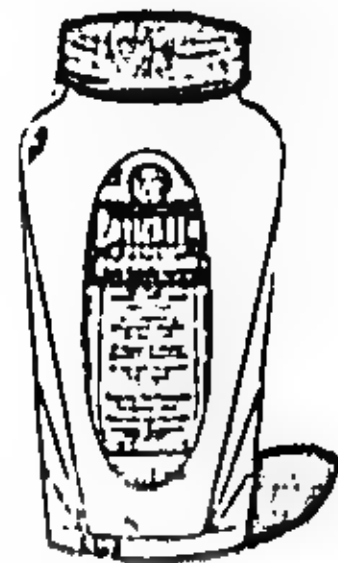


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The BOYS and GIRLS PA

THIRTEEN BOOKS FOR THE 25th

F. G. Prince-White picks some winners for Christmas reading

WHEN Christmas is just round the corner, and it's time to choose books as presents for schoolboys and girls who will all be expecting something "really super," I seem to hear them whispering: "What cheek for any grown-up person to decide what we'd like to read!"

But I flatter myself that, if they walked into the bookshop with me, they would plump for the very books I had thought of for them.

I am particularly happy about my choice of "The Children's Ship" (Barrie, 12s. 6d.), compiled by Lady Cynthia Asquith. The title puzzled me at first, for there is nothing at all concerning ships in the book. After I had dipped well into it, however, I realised that it might with good reason have been called "The Children's Ship Comes Home," for it is loaded with silver and gold in the shape of stories and rhymes and sparkling accounts of the habits of birds and a variety of other attractive matters written by some very famous people.

Pigs in Clover
MISS NANCY PRICE would alone make the book a treasure with her memories of animals that have appeared on the stage with her. Of one of these, a piglet, she recalls: "He used to nuzzle against me, squeaking with delight when I came into the theatre, and wag the whole of his little body; he would follow me about exactly like a dog, and lie on the rug by the stage door, keeping his feet and nibble his boots."

This little pig eventually went to a farm in Yorkshire, Miss Price stipulating that he should "never become bacon." She says he was "driven there in a Rolls-Royce and had a royal farewell, the whole company gathering round, very near to tears..." Another actor-piglet—in her production of "Alice in Wonderland"—was adopted by Lewis Carroll's grand-nieces. When he had grown to 400lb, they reported: "The only useful thing he does is to waddle leisurely about at charity fetes enabling people to have expensive guesses at his weight."

Boys Want Facts
It is not easy to choose books for boys in their teens; they are at a stage where fancy and

fact fight in their minds for supremacy, and fancy generally gets the worst of it. Luckily, more and more writers of juvenile fiction are now producing mystery and detective stories, and sea yarns and tales of adventure which indicate increased respect for the developing young intelligence. A good example of this new attitude is "The Poisoned Pilot," by Captain A.O. Pollard, V.C. (Hutchinson, 6s.); and Captain W.E. Johns seems destined to be as enormously successful with "Gimlet" as with "Biggles." His latest narrative of the exploits of the resourceful Commando leader, in "Gimlet Bores In" (Brockhampton Press, 6s.), is certain of being accepted with alacrity.

There is a spate of animal stories, I do not welcome all of them; too many of their authors fall into the error of making four-footed characters bewilderingly human. The best of them are boons and blessings, for they appeal strongly to girls as well as boys.

In this category I place "Greatheart," the history of a shepherd dog that became a blind man's guide, by Joseph E. Chipperfield (Hutchinson, 8s. 6d.). It has first-rate black-and-white illustrations by C. Gifford Ambler. Remarkable among the animal books is one by Jane Gayer, who is only 16: "Brownie" (Hollis and Carter, 15s.), a sensitively written story about horses. The young author supplies her own illustrations, which are as astonishingly mature as her literary style.

Something To Make

THERE is never any doubt about the rightness of M.E. Atkinson's stories; "Steeple Folly" (Bodley Head, 8s. 6s.), will be hailed with joy by all who have read "August Adventure" and "The Compass Points North."

A book that will get many a grown-up out of a quandary and bring sweet peace to many a home, has been written by G. Warren Schloot, a former "Animator" in Walt Disney's studios. His title is "What Shall I Do?" (John Murray, 7s. 6d.), and it tells, with the aid of scores of photographs, how to make all manner of toys and games, and perform simple but very mystifying parlor-tricks.

If you want to make absolutely sure of quiet hours in the Christmas holiday you must add to this list the "Snow Books" (Werner Laurie, 5s. each), fresh versions of that old delight, the cut-out "snowshow," which include a Christmas Crib scene and a Noah's Ark, and will, I guarantee, engross the most restless child.

In A Few Lines...

"A Prince of the Willow," by E.R. Home-Gall (Hennell Locke, 6s.); story of a boy batsman who finally plays for England.

"Detectives by the Sea," by Jean Henson (Faber and Faber, 6s. 6d.); a well-written mystery thriller.

"Eudoria's Broomstick," by Victor Knowland (Eyre and Spottiswoode, 7s. 6d.); very exciting tale about witches, with novel pictures.

"Adventure and Discovery Book" (Jonathan Cape, 12s. 6d.); a "safe buy" for any boy or girl.

"The Greenland Adventure," by George L. Proctor (Harrap, 7s. 6d.); four undergraduates on an expedition get thrillingly involved in international intrigue.

Puzzle Answers

CROSSWORD:

A	S	P	R	I	D	E	A
H	A	E	A	T	I	N	M
N	O	M	E	E	T		
B	E	A	M	E			
P	I	R	S	E	S		
P	I	S	T	E	O		
A	N	O	N	O	M	E	N
T	E	N			A	N	T

WORD CHAIN: MOEN, - torn, tore, tare, dare, DARK.

POWERS: 1 - Jason, Urashima (others are planets), 2 - Joan of Arc, 3 - Daisy, 4 - Caterpillar, 5 - butterfly, 6 - The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, by Washington Irving.

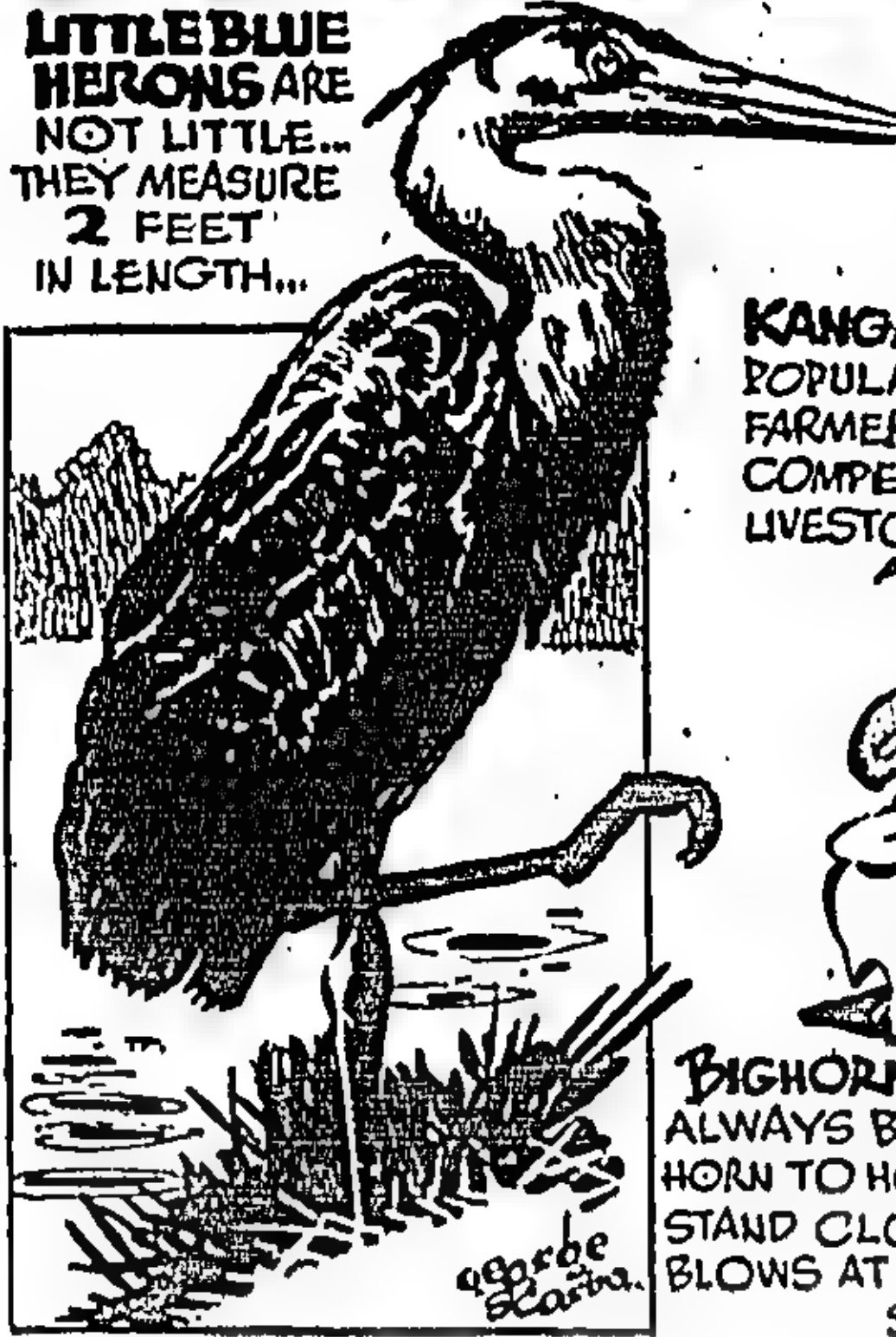
D MOND: P, BIR, SINES, PIRATES, RITA, SEA.

TRAIN-ED WORDS: FATHER, RESISTANCE, NITRATE.

BARNEAD SQUARE.

ZOO'S WHO

LITTLE BLUE HERONS ARE NOT LITTLE... THEY MEASURE 2 FEET IN LENGTH...



KANGAROOS ARE NOT POPULAR WITH AUSTRALIAN FARMERS, SINCE THEY COMPETE WITH DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK FOR GRASS AND OTHER CROPS...



BIGHORN SHEEP DON'T ALWAYS BATTLE BY CRASHING HORN TO HORN; THEY SOMETIMES STAND CLOSE AND STRIKE UPWARD BLOWS AT THE OPPONENT'S STOMACH...

Ocean-to-Ocean Telephone

—Hanid Received a Distress Call On It—

By MAX TRELL

KNARF and Hanid, the Shadows with the turned-about names, had a large sea-shell in their room. When—as often happened—they put it to their ears and listened, they fancied they could hear the sound of the waves. Perhaps it wasn't the sound of the waves at all that they heard. But that's what it sounded like.

King Nep, who once used to be called King Neptune because, in olden days, he was the Ruler of the Seven Seas, told them that the sea-shell was a telephone from all the oceans in the world. Only King Nep wasn't important any more. Instead of being the Ruler of the Seven Seas, he was now hardly even the ruler of the little brook that ran at the edge of the Pine Tree Grove.

It was a curious thing. Knarf and Hanid were sitting quietly in their room. The canary had stopped singing. The cuckoo-clock seemed all at once to stop ticking, though the pendulum kept swinging. The humming and buzzing and chirping of the insects outside the window in the garden became suddenly hushed. Then Knarf, and the next instant Hanid, were aware of a strange and yet familiar sound.

Ocean Telephone

"It's the ocean telephone!" Knarf exclaimed all at once.

Hanid listened for another instant, then rushed across to the table where the shell was standing and put it to her ear.

"What 'is it?' Knarf said, listening beside her.

"Someone is in trouble!" Hanid said. She put the shell to Knarf's ear. "Listen," she said, "Listen and you'll hear it."

Knarf heard the voice distinctly. It was saying over and over: "I'm in trouble. Somebody help me. Come quick."

"Who are you?" Knarf shouted into the shell.

"I'm Leviathan!"

"Who?"

"I'm a whale! My name is Leviathan! I'm stranded on a rock! I can't swim off! Help me!"

There was only one thing to do, Knarf and Hanid did it. They ran immediately to the brook. It was fortunate that they came when they did. Little King Nep was about to go off for a long walk to the end of the brook to see if all his tadpoles were turning into frogs.

"Leviathan the Whale is in trouble!" Knarf said. Then he told King Nep the rest of the message. King Nep's face grew dark. "It's the second time that this has happened. I warned him to keep away from that rock. But he always swims up to it."

When Knarf and Hanid returned home and listened in the sea-shell again they heard only a happy voice saying: "Thank you... thank you for the wave, King Nep!"



King Nep used to be a famous king.

Then a big wave throws him high on it and he can't swim himself off.

"But you're not going to leave him there, King Nep!" said Hanid in alarm.

"Oh, no! I'll get him off. He's an enormous fellow, much, much bigger than an elephant. Nobody can lift him. But I'll get him off."

Thousand Miles

Knarf and Hanid both wondered how King Nep was going to do it. "The rock where he's stranded is a thousand miles away from here," King Nep was saying. "But I'll get him off. Hand me that little pebble, please," he said to Knarf.

Then King Nep did a strange thing. He took the little pebble and dropped it, plunk, into the brook. The pebble made a little ripple. Knarf and Hanid watched the ripple as it swiftly flowed down the brook and disappeared around the bend.

"Well," said King Nep, smiling again, "that's that! Leviathan will soon be off that rock and in deep water where he can swim."

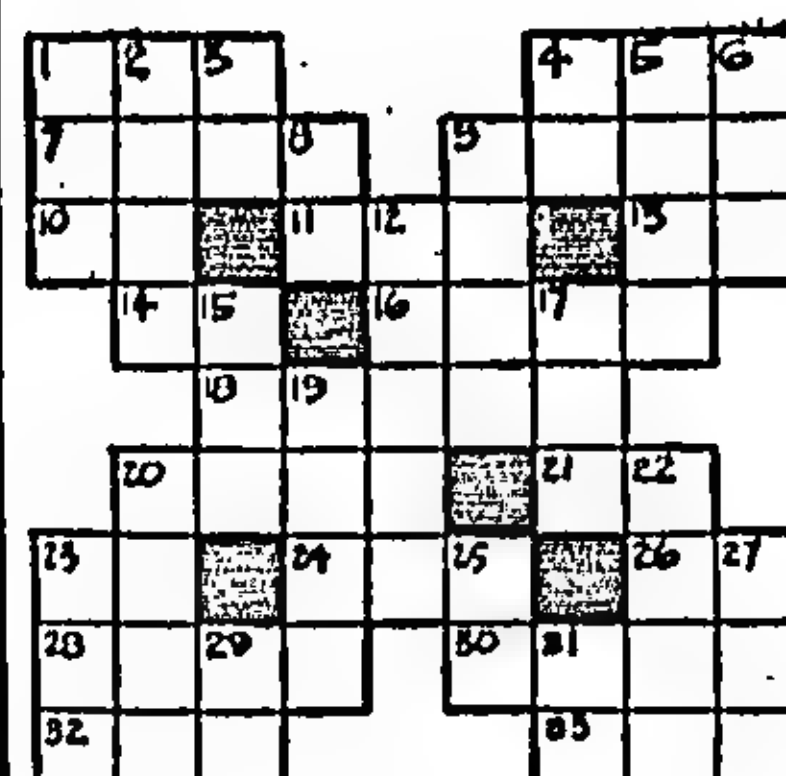
"But—but King Nep!" Knarf and Hanid both shouted. "How? How can that pebble—?"

King Nep chuckled. "The pebble made a ripple. The ripple will get bigger and bigger as it goes down the brook—as it goes down the stream—as it goes down the river. When it reaches the ocean it will be a wave. The wave will go across the ocean, getting higher and stronger—higher and mightier—higher and stronger and mightier than the rock—greater than great Leviathan the Whale himself! It will lift him up. It will lift him up as though he were a tiny cork and toss him far away into deep water where he can swim. Well, as I said before, that's that! And King Nep walked away."

When Knarf and Hanid returned home and listened in the sea-shell again they heard only a happy voice saying: "Thank you... thank you for the wave, King Nep!"

PUZZLE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Cleopatra's snake
- 4 Deed
- 7 Wound mark
- 9 Notion
- 10 Laughter sound
- 11 Dine
- 13 New Mexico (ab.)
- 14 Negative reply
- 16 Encounter
- 18 Light rays
- 20 Evergreens
- 21 East Side (ab.)
- 23 Jumbled type
- 24 Devotee
- 26 Daybreak (comb. form)
- 28 Soon
- 30 Bad sign
- 32 Number
- 33 Social insect

DOWN

- 1 Residue
- 2 Look over
- 3 Parent
- 4 Paid notice in newspaper
- 5 Copper coin
- 6 Scottish cap
- 8 Musical note
- 9 Ledger entry
- 12 Collect
- 15 Oriental sash
- 17 Compass point
- 19 Ireland
- 20 Very nice
- 22 Observed
- 23 Light touch
- 25 Toward
- 27 Ontario (ab.)
- 29 Onward
- 31 Mother

WORD CHAIN

Change MORN to DARK in five moves, changing one letter at a time and having a good word each move.

Skull Was Fir

By DAN MUR

A THOUSAND or 80 years ago, the British Isles were constantly being invaded by Danes, Norsemen, and Vikings. The English usually managed to beat the raiders off, but this fact led to football.

In the year 1042, a Danish band had just been driven off. Some English farmers were digging up a field, and turned up a long-buried skull. They called it a Dane's skull, and every man took a kick at it, just "to get even." A few boys who were watching joined in the sport. Before anyone realised it, they had started a game, with two teams each trying to kick the skull to the opposite side of the field.

The game grew better when somebody thought of blowing up a cow's bladder and using that instead of digging up skulls. The new "ball" wasn't so gruesome, and it had more bounce. They still called the game "kicking the Dane's head," and it was tremendously popular. Whole villages would play, each side trying to kick the ball across the market square. Every man and boy in the village played on the "team," so it was a merry free-for-all scramble.

AFTER a time they forgot about the Danes and their raids. The game was called simply "football." Soon each team was limited to 50 players. The popularity of the game spread to the larger towns and cities, but playing space had to be smaller. Accordingly, teams had to be smaller, and more definite rules grew up.

Popular as it was, the game was banned twice in England. Londoners, playing on the streets, made so much fuss that King Edward II tried to abolish the game by law. Nobody paid much attention to the law, though. The players kept one step ahead of the King's sheriffs, and went right on kicking and goading.

About the year 1200, when the ball was such a popular game, it was banned again.

Rupert's Autumn Primrose—8



"In great excitement Rupert asks what his prize is, and the Gipsy points to a large china jug of curious shape. 'There's K.K.K.', she says. 'You can put big flowers in the jug and small flowers in the little pieces below. I don't think only got two of the jugs.' 'Then I'm going to win the other one,' says Edward. 'Taking him to be his first ball with great force. But it flies much too high. It is the canvas at a point where it is rather loose and goes right through. To their consternation they find that



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"HUNAN"	Tientsin & Tientsin	5 p.m. 2nd Jan.
"SHENKING"	Keelung	5 p.m. 3rd Jan.
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"PAKHOI"	Kobe	27th Dec.
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"SHANSI"	Bangkok	31st Dec.

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"TAIFING"	Shanghai	In Port 20th Dec.
"YUNNAN"	Sydney, Brisbane & Townsville	p.m. 30th Dec.
"TAIYUAN"	Sydney, Brisbane & Townsville	9th Jan.
"CHANGSHA"	Townsville & Manila	9th Jan.

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"MENTOR"	Liverpool & Glasgow	8th Jan.

Scheduled Sailings from Europe

Sails	Arrives
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"ANTIOCHUS" 21st Nov.	31st Dec.
"MENTOR" 2nd Dec.	6th Jan.
"AUTOLYCHUS" 4th Dec.	10th Jan.
"PYRRHUS" 13th Dec.	15th Jan.
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"CLYTONEUS" 28th Dec.	28th Jan.
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"BENRINNES"	do	25th Jan.
"BENROACHAN"	do	29th Jan.
"BENBRACKIE"	do	6th Feb.
"BENOLUCH"	do	14th Feb.

SAILINGS

SHIP	FROM	DUE
"BENLAVERS"	Liverpool, Glasgow, Dublin, Rotterdam & Antwerp.	7th Jan.
"BENROACHAN"	do	3rd Feb.
"BENATTOW"	London, Antwerp, Rotterdam & Hamburg.	21st Jan.
"BENRINNES"	Havre, Liverpool, Antwerp, Rotterdam & Hamburg.	30th Jan.
"BENOLUCH"	London, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Hamburg & Hull.	18th Feb.

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JOHNNY HAZARD

O JACOBY
ON BRIDGEHere's A Lesson In
Percentage Play

♠ J 6 4 3	23
♥ A 7 4	
♦ A K 5 2	
♣ 10	
♠ 10 7 2	
♥ J 10 5	
♦ Q 8 6	
♣ A 7 3 2	

BY OSWALD JACOBY

"PLEASE settle a question of percentages," requests a Brooklyn reader. "When this hand was played, South won the opening lead with the king of hearts. He drew three rounds of trumps, ending in dummy, and tried the club finesse.

This lost to West's queen, and another heart knocked out dummy's ace. When East took the ace of clubs, he cashed a heart trick. Then the defenders could sit back and wait for a diamond trick.

"After the contract had been set, every body joined in a discussion of what it should have been played. North said that declarer should have led out three rounds of diamonds before drawing trumps. Then, if diamonds broke 3-3 (as they did, of course) South could get rid of his last heart on dummy's last diamond.

"South said that a diamond break of 3-3 would be expected only 33 percent of the time. If the clubs broke, he said, gave him a 50 percent chance.

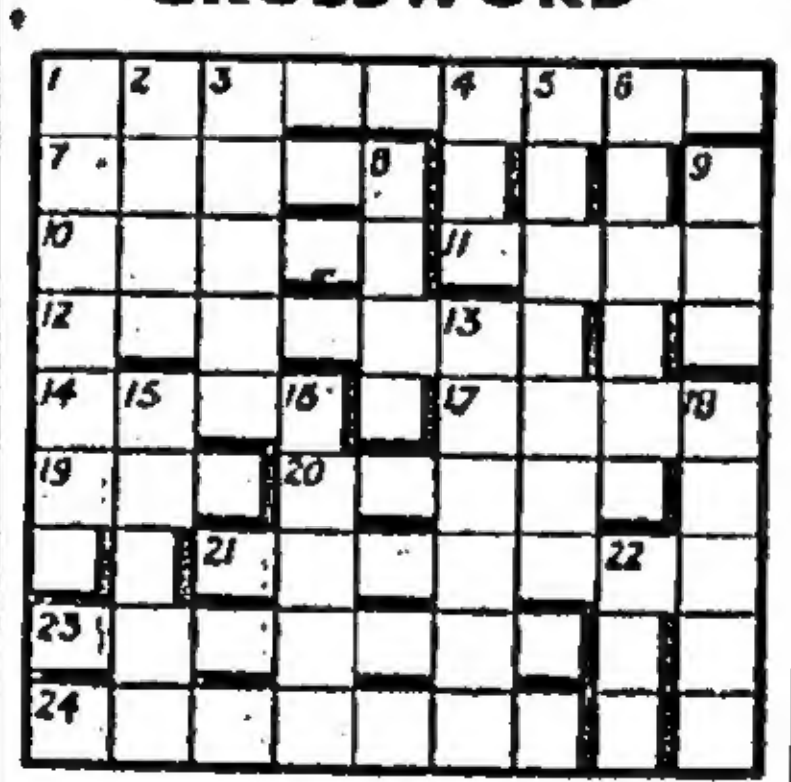
True, and was he therefore following percentage in trying for the club finesse? South's statement about the percentages was absolutely correct, but his conclusions were wrong. The club finesse was more likely to succeed than the diamond break, but it was nevertheless better to try for the diamonds.

The reason is that the contract is set automatically if South goes after the clubs and wins to the queen. However, if South tries out the diamonds and finds that they do not break, he can still fall back on the clubs.

For example, suppose South wins the first trick with the king of hearts, draws three rounds of trumps, and then gives up a diamond trick at once. Somebody returns a heart (West's queen), knocking out dummy's ace. Declarer then cashes dummy's top diamonds to see if the suit breaks. If diamonds break, the last diamond is cashed, and South discards his losing heart. The rest is in his own hands. If the diamonds do not break, the contract is far from set. Declarer must lead a club from dummy. East follows with a low club. South must then decide whether to play the king of the jack. If he plays the king, he should have something better than a 50 percent chance to make the correct play in this situation.

In short, there is no need for South to choose either the diamonds or the clubs as his best chance for the contract. His best plan is to try both suits, and this can be done only by trying the diamonds first.

CROSSWORD



Across
1. The sign of a cockatrice heart. (9)
2. You may say goodbye to the chance of solving this. (6)
3. Turn you wouldn't take on the road. (5)
4. Fraise in return. (4)
5. As you see this word is across (7)
6. It is naturally paired. (6)
7. With a cat's paw you get this distorted scar. (4)
8. What the "Scarier" pinpoints? (4)
9. Almost alike to two dimes. (9)
10. Tail at large. (7)
11. A sort of wave but not a permanent one. (7)
12. A screaming crowd of men and girls tore down four fences and attempted to interrupt the speaker. (10)
13. While some lay in the road, sobbing hysterically, others smashed cry-bottles and set off the great explosion to let him go. (10)
14. One pointed to be noticed when the sun was on the surface. (8)
15. A self-contradictory statement. (7)
16. A sort of wave but not a permanent one. (7)
17. A screaming crowd of men and girls tore down four fences and attempted to interrupt the speaker. (10)
18. While some lay in the road, sobbing hysterically, others smashed cry-bottles and set off the great explosion to let him go. (10)
19. One pointed to be noticed when the sun was on the surface. (8)
20. A self-contradictory statement. (7)
21. A sort of wave but not a permanent one. (7)
22. A screaming crowd of men and girls tore down four fences and attempted to interrupt the speaker. (10)
23. While some lay in the road, sobbing hysterically, others smashed cry-bottles and set off the great explosion to let him go. (10)
24. One pointed to be noticed when the sun was on the surface. (8)

YOUR BIRTHDAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

By STELLA

If you are born on the first day of the incoming sign, Capricorn, you are ruled by Saturn, the God of Time. In addition, you have many of the characteristics of the outgoing sign, Sagittarius—an especially strong combination of forces. Added to the wisdom of a sage, counsellor and philosopher, you also have the tact of an ambassador of good will and the kindness of a spiritual leader.

Inclined to be overly honest, you are not as self-assertive as you might be. Consequently, you may not reach the success and fame which should be yours. If you will learn to be a little more aggressive, practical and use your business and executive ability, to its fullest extent, you will reap a good harvest of returns. Your imagination is exceptionally

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—This is a good day for clearing up last year's misunderstandings. Patch up an old quarrel.

GENIUM (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—Try to make this a quiet day of rest. You will enjoy tomorrow better if you do.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 21)—Good judgment instead of emotions should rule this day. Be on your guard against complacency.

ARIES (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)—Give others a chance. Explain your side of a question, then listen before making up your mind.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)—

If you are born today, you are one of those daring, adventuresome souls to whom the word "fear" means absolutely nothing! Once you get an idea into your head, you will follow it through to its conclusion, come what may. Because of this dauntless spirit of tenacity and even recklessness, you must be extremely careful that your ideals are always held high and that your motives are of the best.

You have an independent spirit and dislike conventions and dogma almost to the point of being which makes you furious if you are pressed into any kind of routine. Be careful to avoid monotony in your work. You are versatile by nature and can turn your hand to anything. In fact, unless you are careful

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—Christmas Day! Be at home to all your friends. Spread joy and happiness to all who come. **AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)**—Don't attempt too much. If you take things too seriously, you will accomplish more and enjoy yourself. **PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 21)**—Sift out your usual Christmas schedule. You will find it works out harmoniously. **ARIES (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)**—Put your best foot forward today, especially if you are visiting relatives you haven't seen lately. **TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)**—

If you are born on Christmas Day, you seem to have inherited some of the most significant characteristics of your sign. Leadership, originality, in idea and action, and a keen sense of the good and the bad in the world. Your kindly attitude toward all appears to be your outstanding trait. You seem able to see the good in almost any situation. You may have a philosophy of your own, but it will work out for you. You are a pattern for others to follow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—There is work to be done. Concentrate on it. If you want good results, don't keep on celebrating. **AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)**—Emotions should be held in check. Control. Catch up on your studies. Don't neglect important things. **PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 21)**—Don't antagonize others by making fun of an idea. Act wisely and you will benefit. **ARIES (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)**—Look ahead without confusion. If you face a matter squarely, it won't be troublesome. **TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)**—

If you are born today, you have exceptional concentration to any purpose which you deem worthy of your attention. You are original and inventive, and have the opportunity to go your own way and work things out as you desire them. You reach an outstanding success quite early in life. But if others interfere, you will not achieve your goal so speedily. Consequently, it is important that you set out on your path of life ambition at an early age. You

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—The suggestions of a friend may be exceptionally helpful just now. Attend a concert, perhaps. **AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)**—Haste can make waste, so don't be careless in important matters. **PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 21)**—Especially like, too.

BY THE WAY
by Beachcomber

The debate about parking arrangements for cars in London is already out of date. As more and more traffic becomes motionless, the problem will solve itself, until one day London becomes a metal forest of rusting cars.

Wheels will burst through the road surfaces, choking wheels and bonnets and the drivers and passengers, huddled in their cars, will be forced to look on from some State microphone, will sleep on amid the litter of decaying and disintegrating machinery, and the sort of wave but not a permanent one.

Mar-Itak
Tulsa, Oklahoma, has a 2,000-a-week music-hall contract, is a pleasant-looking unassuming young man.

A screaming crowd of men and girls tore down four fences and attempted to interrupt the speaker. (10)

YOUR BIRTHDAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

If you are born on the first day of the incoming sign, Capricorn, you are ruled by Saturn, the God of Time. In addition, you have many of the characteristics of the outgoing sign, Sagittarius—an especially strong combination of forces. Added to the wisdom of a sage, counsellor and philosopher, you also have the tact of an ambassador of good will and the kindness of a spiritual leader.

Inclined to be overly honest, you are not as self-assertive as you might be. Consequently, you may not reach the success and fame which should be yours. If you will learn to be a little more aggressive, practical and use your business and executive ability, to its fullest extent, you will reap a good harvest of returns. Your imagination is exceptionally

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)—This is a good day for clearing up last year's misunderstandings. Patch up an old quarrel.

GENIUM (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—Try to make this a quiet day of rest. You will enjoy tomorrow better if you do.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 21)—Good judgment instead of emotions should rule this day. Be on your guard against complacency.

ARIES (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)—Give others a chance. Explain your side of a question, then listen before making up your mind.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)—

If you are born today, you are one of those daring, adventuresome souls to whom the word "fear" means absolutely nothing! Once you get an idea into your head, you will follow it through to its conclusion, come what may. Because of this dauntless spirit of tenacity and even recklessness, you must be extremely careful that your ideals are always held high and that your motives are of the best.

You have an independent spirit and dislike conventions and dogma almost to the point of being which makes you furious if you are pressed into any kind of routine. Be careful to avoid monotony in your work. You are versatile by nature and can turn your hand to anything. In fact, unless you are careful

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"CANTON"	11th Jan.	19th Jan.
"CHUBAN"	23rd Jan.	20th Feb.
"CARTHAGE"	6th Feb.	12th March

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Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Due London
"CORFU"	16th Jan.	16th Jan.
"CANTON"	10th Feb.	19th Feb.
"CHUBAN"	24th Feb.	22nd March
"CARTHAGE"	16th March	16th April
"CORFU"	15th April	15th May
"CANTON"	11th May	11th June

Accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said & London.

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"ROMAL"	25th Jan.	London & Continent
"KHYBER"	12th Feb.	—

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S.S. "SANGOLA"	Sails 20th Dec.	from Calcutta, Hongkong & Straits for Japan
	Sails 13th Jan.	

* These ships have refrigerated cargo space.

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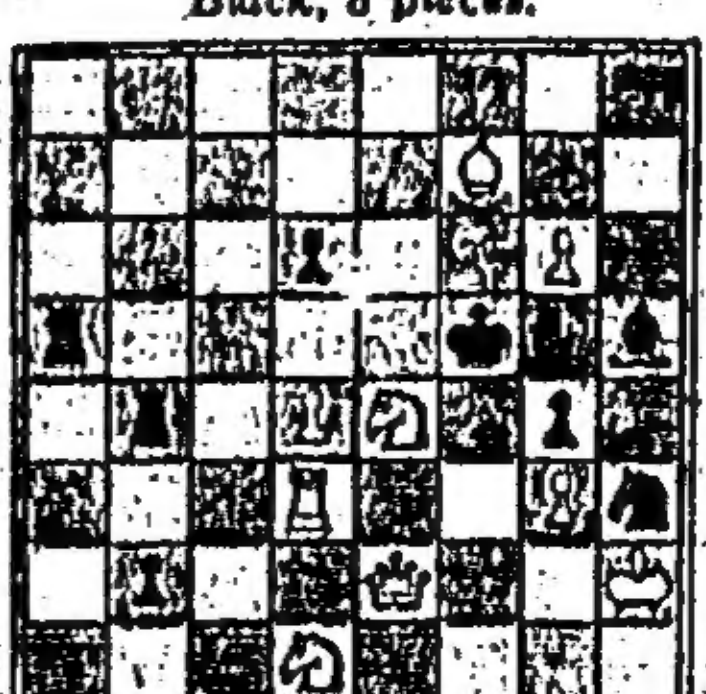
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TO NEW YORK, BALTIMORE AND BOSTON via PACIFIC COAST AND PANAMA	
MARINE SWAPPER	Arr. Jan. 7 Sails Jan. 8
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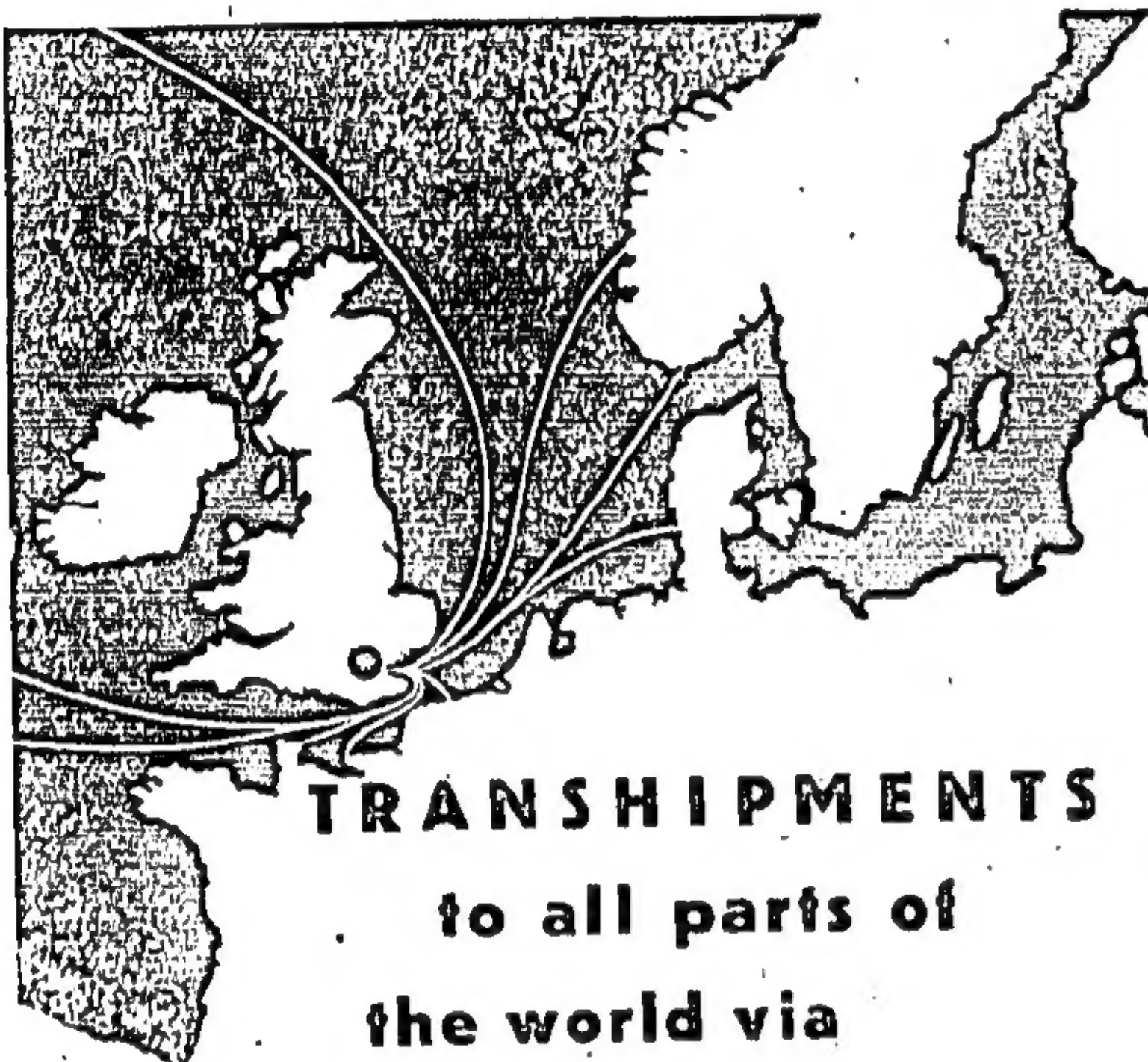
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THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

FIRST RACE MEETING

Monday, 1st January, 1951.

There are ten races. The First Bell will be rung at 11.30 a.m. and the First Race will be run at 12.00 Noon. The Tiffin interval is after the Fourth Race (1.30 p.m.).

Through Tickets (10 Races — \$20.00) may be obtained at the Comptroller Office of the Club, 1st floor, Telephone House, also tickets for the Cash Sweep on the last race of the Meeting as well as the Special Cash Sweep on the "Pearce Memorial Cup" scheduled to be run on 28th February, 1951.

Through Tickets reserved for this Meeting but not paid for by 10.00 a.m. on Saturday, 30th December, will be sold and the reservation cancelled for future meetings.

To avoid congestion at the Club's Offices at Telephone House, non-members are requested to purchase their sweep tickets at the Club's Branch Offices at —

5, D'Arquar Street, Hong Kong

or

382, Nathan Road, Kowloon.

MEMBERS' BADGES AND ENCLOSURE

SETS OF MEMBERS' AND LADIES' BADGES WILL NOT BE ISSUED FOR THE 1951 RACING SEASON UNTIL 1ST APRIL, 1951. 1950 SETS ARE VALID UNTIL THEN.

Members and guests are reminded that they and their ladies MUST wear their badges prominently displayed throughout the Meeting.

NO ONE WITHOUT A BADGE WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE MEMBERS' ENCLOSURE.

Badges admitting ladies not in possession of Brooches or Season tickets and gentlemen, non-members of the Club, to the Members' Enclosure and Club Rooms at \$10.00 including tax, for ladies or gentlemen are obtainable through the Secretary on the written or personal introduction of a member, such member to be responsible for all visitors introduced by him, and for payment of all chits etc.

Badges admitting to Members' Enclosure will NOT be on sale at the RACE COURSE.

The Branch Offices and the Treasurers' Comptroller Office as well as the Secretary's Office will close at 10.00 a.m. The Treasurers' Comptroller Office and the Secretary's Office are situated at 1st Floor, Telephone House.

A limited number of Tiffins will be obtainable at the Club House provided they are ordered in advance from the No. 1 Boy (Tel. 27410).

NO CHILDREN WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE CLUB'S PREMISES DURING THE MEETING.

PUBLIC ENCLOSURE

The price of admission to the Public Enclosure is \$3.00 including tax for all persons including ladies, and is payable at the Gate.

BOOKMAKERS, TIC TAC MEN ETC., WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO OPERATE WITHIN THE PREMISES OF THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB DURING THE RACE MEETING.

MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE OBTAINABLE IN THE RESTAURANT IN THE PUBLIC ENCLOSURE.

SERVANTS' PASSES

Servants' passes will be issued to private box holders only, who are requested to distribute them with discrimination and to endorse their names on the passes. Holders of such passes are not permitted in the Members' Enclosure except for passing through on their duties and must remain in their employers' stands.

BY ORDER,
S. A. SLEAP.



Yes, it's a nice little gesture! They promise not to fitch the sixpences and charms from your Christmas pudding or get into your mince.

Airmen on a Christmas spree will also be left alone.

The Junior Gremlins are the kindest team in the League. They haven't driven anybody to tears. They have lots of goals scored against them and they accept them cheerfully and bring the ball out for another bully-off.

They are not mean. They let everyone else have all the glory. Theirs is the true Christmas spirit and was even weeks away from Christmas. Charity was their motto.

— Photo by China Mail Staff Photographer.

Rather, that has been their policy up to Christmas. They have already made their New Year resolution. They are going to be more Gremlinish in future and it will not be easy to score goals against them. They have also held a conference and one of the girls has been persuaded to score a goal.

They are, as they line up:

The defence — Mrs Gilles, Mrs Gerrard and Irene Smirnov.

The half-back line — "Tommy" Wiseman, Dianne Saunders, Rosemary Read and Wendy Cox-Walker.

The forwards — Natalie Colon, Noreen Campbell, Mrs Vianha, Coreen Ellery and Dolores Bonnar.

International Series Highlights Yuletide Softball Programme By "GRANDSTAND"

The Yuletide Holiday programme will be highlighted by the first round of the Softball International Series which will be staged on Boxing Day when the title-holders Pakistan meet Great Britain and China cross bats with the Philippine Islanders, with Portugal and the United States idle, having drawn "byes."

After several weeks of dull Senior League softball games, fans will be treated to some real knockdown dragout affairs this weekend as Pandas challenge the League supremacy of the Braves in the Blue section in a second round showdown at 2 p.m., while Madcaps clash with surging pennant-struck South China at 3.30 p.m. tomorrow.

In the Junior League, a needle tilt is down for decision as the Dragons, still smarting under the bitterness of a previous last inning noseout, encounter the Rexes with the avowed intention of squaring accounts when they meet at midday tomorrow.

In the Ladies loop, the Canadians-Wahoos tussle has been postponed and the lone tussle will be a battle between the basement dwelling White Fangs and Pirates.

UNBLENISHED RECORD
Due to various circumstances which were not foreseen when the fixtures were drawn up, the Braves have appeared in only four official starts, but during that period they have trampled over all opposition with an unblemished record.

After the month long layoff, manager Charlie Figueroa is naturally anxious to match his Braves against the Panda challenge, and the cagey mentor who has a trick in his bag for every contingency is quite confident that he will add another scalp to his string of triumphs.

Chapple Remedios, who has handled the pitching assignments for the Homunthi Warriors with flying colours, will be given the nod with Mario "Red" Pereira donning the iron mask.

The infield will see Carlos Yvanovich stamping around his favourite spot at first base by the regular duo of Tony Alves and Junior Remedios hovering around the keystone cushion, to form one of the deadliest double-play combinations in the circuit. The impressive inner circle will be completed with Tony Osmund guarding third base.

In the outfield, the Braves have a wealth of talent to choose from, and if plate power is any criterion, the picketnet should be Jose Guierres, Spiky Gutierrez and Bob Remedios. On the other hand, mentor Figueroa may adopt the usual strategy of pecking away for runs with squeeze plays, in which case the outfield may be shuffled around a little to accommodate his hunt specialists.

HIBERNATING?
While the Braves have been hibernating in their wigwam, the Pandas have been busy working out new plays for this important tussle, and may even attempt to beat the Braves at their own game of tactics.

exception of Raymond Tsao and Wally Mar, their stickwork is nothing to rave about.

Pilot Y. C. Mei will be directing field operations from the initial station, and will have no alternative but to start their only hurler, Vincent Xavier, whose control is usually sacrificed for tricky spinners.

Most teams have discovered by now that it doesn't pay to let any of the fleet-footed Braves get on base, and hindsatcher Raymond Tsao will probably call for pitches to be right in the groove, trusting to the almost air-tight defence to smother any uprising.

The Panda strength is in the defence, for which infielders Y. S. Liang, Wally Mar and Willie Woo backing up the battery the Braves will really have to lay the hickory on the horsehide with power to get a hit.

Then in the outfield, there will be C. Y. Lu who has held the left patch with perfect fielding, with Tony Wei and Everard Watt in the other pastures.

NEW BLOOD

With this important game looming, mastermind Y. C. Mei has been scouting around for new blood and he has been successful in signing on Y. Y. Liang, another member of that renowned softball clan. It is not yet certain how Liang will figure in the lineup, but a good guess is that Mei will be holding him in readiness for pinch hitting in a crucial spot.

Madcaps and South China will be meeting for the first time, this game being previously postponed, and should attract a flock of fans as both teams are well supported, particularly South China on whom the Chinese section of the softball fraternity are depending on bringing home the bacon.

Judging from recent play, the Carolers are given a slight edge in the coming tussle, having toppled the Jaguars a fortnight ago to climb into the lead. This outfit, whom the dopestors did not give much of a chance in the early season friendlies, have bedazzled the experts for their pitching is only average.

strong, and it is this quality that makes the team click.

Madcaps have a good record too, having only bowed to the powerful Jaguars and Saints, and if bossman Euster Hollands can outlast the Carolers this week, chances for the Madcapers to finish in the playoffs are rosy.

Opposing hurlers will be Wong Po-chiu and Kelly Silvanetto, both stylists of different schools. Wong depends on a change of pace with his tantalising slow stuff, while Silvanetto is a specialist artist delivering to batters' weaknesses.

The Madcapers are heavier with the willow, led by Rennie Sequeira, winner of the batting title last year, but this advantage may be cancelled out with an infield that some severe critics consider as misfits, bordering on the mediocre.

The Dragons and Rexes are both practically assured of being in the Junior League playoffs as the rest of the pack are some distance behind. Nevertheless, both sides are looking forward to the forthcoming clash to settle differences once more.

Fans will recall at the last tussle the Dragons had the game sewed up in the proverbial bag when the Rexes staged a last inning rally to knot the count, and in the ensuing confusion the Dragons handed the game over to their rivals on a platter with a wide wedge.

GAME OF THE WEEK
For Junior League fans, this is the game of the week, when the Dragons will be all out to vindicate themselves with a triumph over their foes.

Arrangements are being initiated by Mr. Charles A. Figueroa to stage a series of exhibition bouts in aid of the Shanghai Refugees at present at Macao, and it is understood that the first game will be played off on New Year's Day between the Jaguars and Braves, perennial enemies since their debut in the minor circuit several seasons ago. This noble cause should be well received, and we have no doubt that softball fans will be right behind it.

For reservations, call your Travel Agent or...

Hong Kong Hotel, Phones 31630, 31630

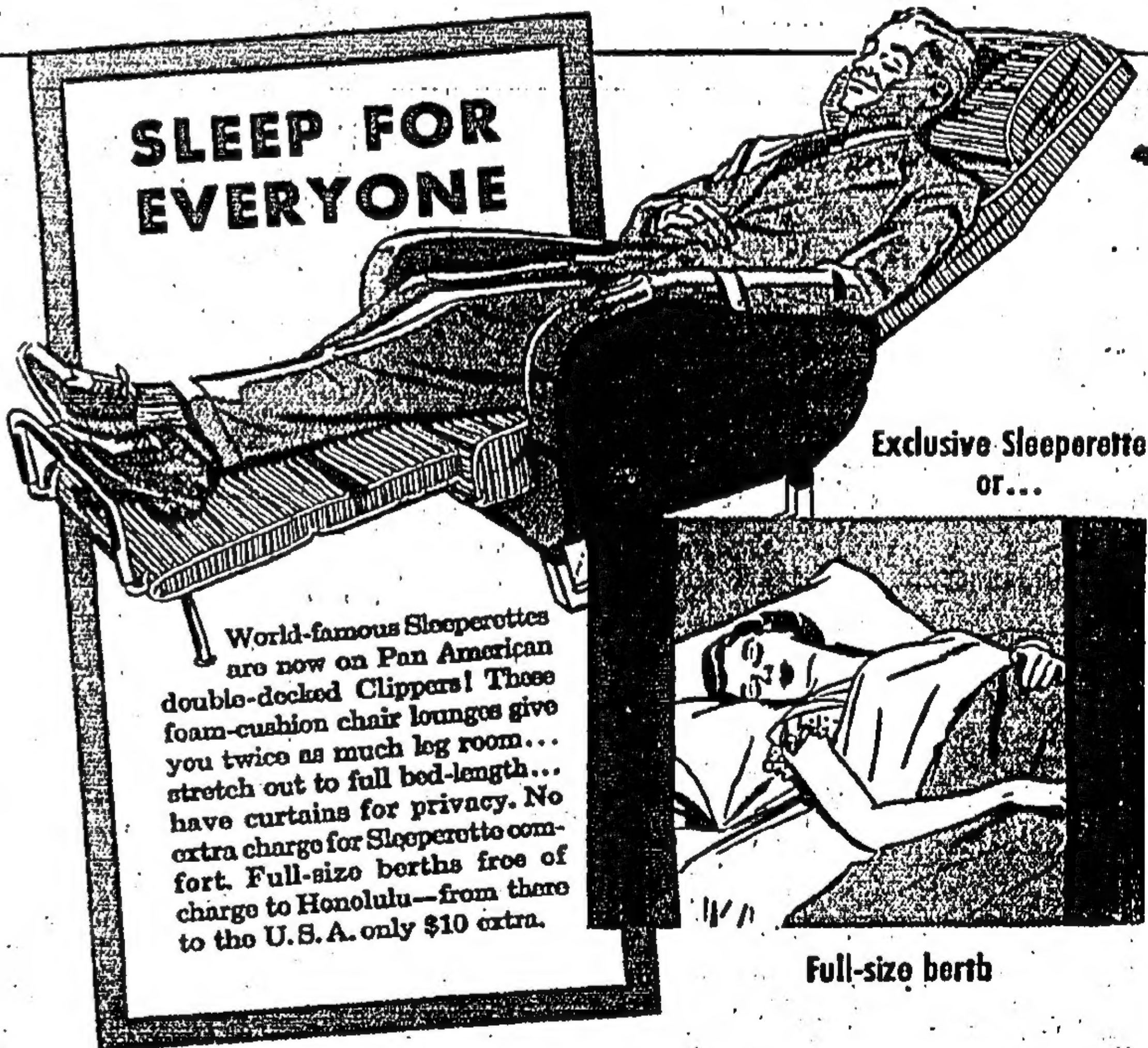
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"LECONTE DE LISLE" from Japan 3rd Jan

SAILINGS
PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE
"FELIX ROUSSEL" to Marseilles via Manila 10th Jan
"LA MARSEILLAISE" to Yokohama & Kobe 28th Jan
"LA MARSEILLAISE" to Marseilles via Manila 8th Feb

FREIGHT SERVICE
"ST NAZAIRE" N. Africa & Europe 20th Jan
"BEAUVAIS" N. Africa & Europe 15th Feb

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"BOISSEvain"	In Port	10th Jan. '51
"TJIPANAS"	19th Jan. '51	9th Mar. '51
"TJIPANAS"	25th Jan. '51	14th Feb. '51
"TJIPADAK"	1st Feb. '51	

JAPAN	ARRIVALS	SAILINGS
"BOISSEvain"	8th Jan. '51	25th Dec.
"TJIPANAS"	12th Feb. '51	28th Jan. '51
"BOISSEvain"	7th Mar. '51	21st Jan. '51

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"MARKEKER"	14th Jan. '51	14th Jan. '51
"MARKEKER"	14th Jan. '51	10th Feb. '51

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JAPAN	ARRIVALS	SAILINGS
"MARKEKER"	7th Jan. '51	21st Jan. '51
"MARKEKER"	9th Feb. '51	

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S.S. "FLYING CLOUD"	New York via Manila 1st week of Jan.	Tsingtao, Taku Bar, Kobe, Nagoya, Yokohama, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston via Panama Canal, 1st week of January.

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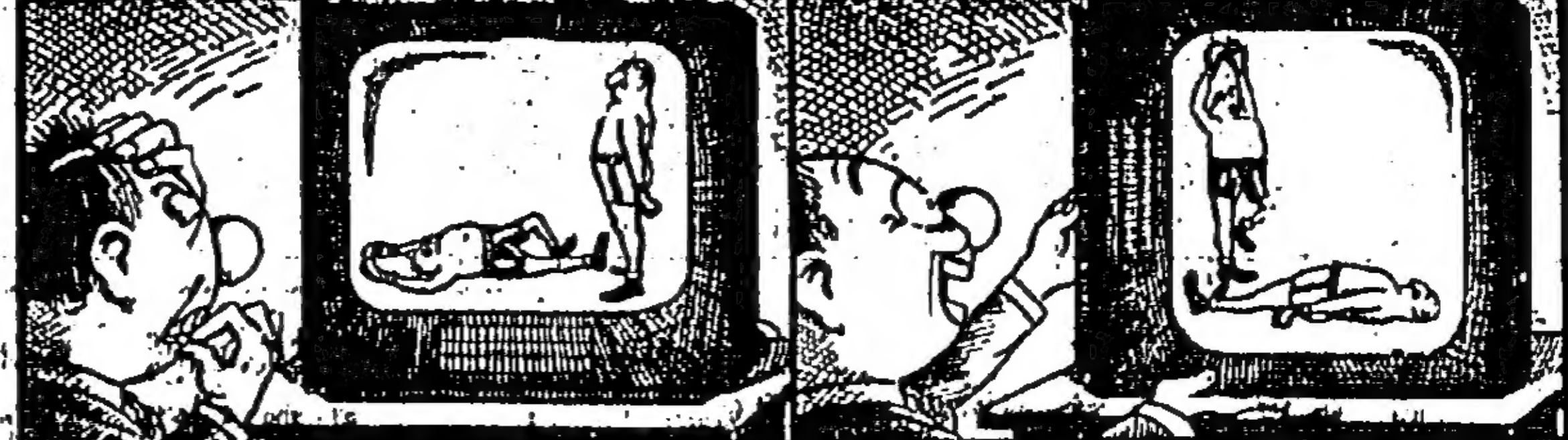
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Hongkong, 15th December, 1950.

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SPORTING SAM



THERE'S NOTHING MUCH WRONG WITH THE SPIRIT OF EMPIRE RUGGER

Says PETER WILSON

So many of sport's big occasions—a Soccer international, a Test match, a title fight—end up as such gigantic flops that it's delightful for the professional sports observer to be able to attend certain annual occasions with the certainty that he's not going to be disappointed.

For instance, I've never seen a full Grand National, and once again, I came away from the Rugby Rugger match with the feeling that although we have only a handful of male world champions in non-mechanized sports (and one of those is suspended) there is nothing very wrong with the spirit of British and Empire Rugby players.

The match itself was not very exciting—no contest can be when one side is so manifestly superior at all points.

But the determination of winners and losers alike was as warming as the jigger of rum which the prudent had in their tea at half-time.

Particularly I liked the performance of Oxford's W. J. Hefer—a great bullock of a man. The robust Mr. Hefer comes to us from South Africa and gives the impression that he could form a secure base on his own.

But the Cambridge boys are in no need of cotton wool—or police protection. And here's the magnificent side of it. Instead of appeals to the referee or the agonised contortions on the ground which make certain Soccer players figures of fun (except that it isn't really funny), some of the opposition forwards decided to use a little private enterprise.

NUTTY ALE
Certainly I saw Mr. Hefer receive at least one left hook, and, what is more, Mr. Hefer, who had the ball at the time, continued to run straight through the punch and the opposition.

Please don't get me wrong. I am not advocating viciousness or suggesting that football should be replaced by fist fighting. But Rugger is a man's game, and anyone who has ever sweated in a pack knows that there comes a moment when a man must fight or bust—Dr. Edith Summerskill notwithstanding. And good forwards don't bust.

Moreover, the superb thing about the game is that the fury which can blaze up on the field leaves no rancour, and if Mr. Hefer and his "assailant" didn't pledge each other after the match in stoups of nutty ale—then things have changed very radically in Rugger.

(London Express Service)

Badminton Roundup

One of Hongkong's leading badminton players has been cited as being partly responsible for Malay's success in the last Thomas Cup games. He is Low Kent-soo, the present University champion and the Colony 1947/48 Doubles title winner.

In an article in the Straits Times Annual, in which he recalls some of the great players and matches of the past, Mr. Lee Slew—yes, Malaysian sports correspondent writes:

"I remember two young players who developed a new style of play in 1936 which was to represent a major turning point in Malaysian badminton.

Their names were not, as might be expected, Wong Peng-soon and Ooi Teik-heok, or Tan Cheng-phor and A. S. Samuel, or Tan Boon Piew and Tung Ghim-huat. They were Low Kent-soo and Teh Gin-sool, two relatively unknown players from Perak who were competing for the Malaysian doubles title in the face of the sternest opposition.

They used what is now popularly known as the side-by-side or square combination, as opposed to the front-and-back pattern laid down by the great Malaysian partnerships in the past. They played the "shooting" instead of the low service. And, most important, they kept

The Japanese have taken up badminton in a big way. A report in the American badminton magazine "Bird Chatter" mentions that the third All-Japan Championships, held in April at Kanazawa, attracted the huge entry of 350 players, which included as many as 78 in the ladies' singles and 120 in boys' singles! But there were only 18 pairs in the mixed doubles. The American occupation of the country has been mentioned as a factor in the growing popularity of the sport in Japan.

Great strides in the game have also been made in South Africa. The second South African Championship played in August produced two triple champions in Ken Brinn and Miss Florrie McKinnon. So great is the development there that big halls to accommodate between 3,000 and 4,000 spectators are now in course of erection in both Cape Town and Johannesburg. The South Africans have invited the Danish team to tour the Union in July and August 1951 and they themselves will tour Europe in 1951-1952.

The annual inter-county badminton championship in England this year has attracted a record number of 62 teams from 34 counties in the three divisions of play. The champions of the first division last year were Cheshire. In the past inter-county matches consisted of mixed doubles, ladies' doubles and mixed doubles games. This year both men's and ladies' singles have been included. One to be expected of two men's singles, one ladies' singles, four men's doubles (between two pairs), four ladies' doubles (between two pairs) and four mixed doubles (between four pairs).

In the 10th Annual United States Badminton Championships held last April all the holders of the six championship events successfully defended their titles. There were over 200 entries. Ten courts were utilized. Most of the final matches were televised. The singles final between Martin Mendez and Joe Alston was played before 1,500 spectators. Winners were Men's Singles, A. M. Mendez (California); Ladies' Singles, Miss Ethel Marshall (New York); Men's Doubles, W. Rogers and B. McCay (California); Ladies' Doubles, Mrs. E. G. Scovill and Miss Janet Wright (California); Mixed Doubles, Wynn Rogers and Mrs. Lorna Smith (California).

The Southern Ashes between New Zealand and Australia for the annual Whyte Trophy was won this year by New Zealand by 12 matches to 4. This was the fourth clash between the two dominions and New Zealand's first victory in the series which commenced in 1928.

—ARGONAUT.

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"EBANG"	Japan	3rd Jan.
"CHUNSBANG"	Tientsin	14th Jan.

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"WINGSANG"	Kaifeng	30th Dec.
"EBANG"	Calcutta & Singapore	31st Dec.

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"EASTERN SAGA"	Australian Ports	28th Jan.

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"BALUCHISTAN"	Freemantle, Hobart, Adelaide & Melbourne	13th Jan.
"HINDUSTAN"	Manus and Loe (both subject to Inducement) thence Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne & Hobart	20th Jan.
"EASTERN SAGA"	Yokohama, Nagoya, Kobe & Yokohama	1st Feb.

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Vital Issues To Come Before Empire Conference

The Christmas Holidays

Owing to the Christmas holidays there will be no publication of the China Mail until next Wednesday. The China Mail will on that day be published early and will be on the streets before noon.

The Hongkong Telegraph will not resume publication until next Thursday.

There will be a South China Morning Post on Monday but no further publication of that paper until Thursday.

Mail Notices

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23
Closing Times By Air

Formosa, 3 p.m.
Siam, 5 p.m.
Indo-China, 5 p.m.
Closing Times By Sea

Australia & New Zealand, 3 p.m.
Japan, 3 p.m.
France (Paris only), 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
Closing Times By Air

Philippines & B.N. Borneo, 3 p.m.
Siam, Burma, India, Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, East & South Africa, Mauritius, Great Britain, Italy & N.W. Europe, 5 p.m.
Malaya, Indonesia, Ceylon, Australia, New Zealand, India & Persian Gulf Ports, 5 p.m.
Japan & Korea, 5 p.m.
Formosa, 5 p.m.

Closing Times By Sea

Formosa, 10 a.m.
Siam, 10 a.m.
Philippines, 9 a.m.
Siam, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25
Closing Times By Air

Formosa, 10 a.m.
U.S.A. & Canada, Noon.
Malaya, Indonesia, Ceylon, Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan & Persian Gulf Ports, Noon.
Indo-China, French North Africa & France, Noon.
Siam, Noon.

Closing Times By Sea

Malaya, Noon.
Indo-China, Noon.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26
Closing Times By Air

Formosa, 10 a.m.
Philippines, Hawaii & U.S.A., 10 a.m.
(Letters second class mail and parcels) Guam, (letters and second class mail) Canada, (letters only), Noon.

Siam, Noon.
Formosa & U.S.A., Noon.
Japan & Korea, Noon.
Closing Times By Sea

Japan, Noon.
Siam, Noon.
Malaya & Indonesia, Noon.

INTELLIGENCE TEST SOLUTION

It is at once obvious that the 10 letters used are the letters of the word "SOLUTION". What is the word? The answer is "SOLUTION".

THE ANSWER IS "SOLUTION".

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THE ANSWER IS "SOLUTION".

London, Dec. 22.

With the major emphasis on defence and rearmament at the forthcoming Commonwealth Prime Ministers' meeting in London, political quarters here are discussing the important, almost vital role that India, through her Prime Minister, Mr Jawaharlal Nehru, can play at the conference.

Meeting under the gathering gloom of the serious international situation, this family conference of the Commonwealth will this time deal with issues going far beyond the Commonwealth. It sounds rather like the rallying of the clan on the eve of a great march.

With problems involving more than "domestic" adjustments intruding themselves on the attention of the assembled statesmen, the conference is bound to reveal for the first time the strains and stresses of a loose knit relationship that girdles the east and west of the earth.

Observers here feel that India's main clasp can play an invaluable part which may mean a strengthening or weakening of the girdle.

Apart from the subject of the recent exchange of views between the British Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, and the United States President, Mr Truman, the setback in the Far Eastern war and the Brussels decision to build up a European army, almost the first major discussion of the Commonwealth heads will centre on a common Commonwealth defence and rearmament policy.

The line of policy on European problems will raise few controversies as the last Commonwealth meeting has already discussed in general terms the North Atlantic alliance. But about their impact on the East most of the Commonwealth partners will have something to say. Since peace is indivisible, it is obvious that any lessening of tension in the Far East will contribute to an improvement of the general world situation.

There have been many developments on the Far Eastern situation since the Prime Ministers last met. For one thing, Britain, with India, Ceylon and Pakistan, has recognised the new regime in China but the others have not.

GREATEST PERIL

It is well known that for political and strategic considerations and also in the interests of trade, Britain would like to see China in the United Nations, and recognition by the other members of the Commonwealth would no doubt help towards this end.

With an untenable Hongkong and a troublesome Malaya, Britain is keen to do her utmost to avoid any spread of conflict in the East. Mr Attlee is credited here with having convinced the Americans that the crux of the world problems lies today in Europe and not in the East and that the greatest peril for the Americans and the Western world was to get embroiled in an endless conflict in the East at this time.

The progressive wing of the Labour Party, numbering nearly

150 in Parliament, has been insisting on a policy of friendship with China, and Mr Attlee cannot ignore them. On the eve of Mr Attlee's departure to Washington, these Members of Parliament told the Prime Minister clearly that they would not approve of a war with China.

Mr Nehru, whose appeal to Stalin and Mr Dean Acheson, the United States Secretary of State, over the Korean conflict received more widespread approval in Britain and Europe than in America, will come to the conference as "the authentic voice of Asia" and is bound to be the voice of peace, counselling moderation to the Western Powers.

A TRAGEDY

It is the tragedy of present-day politics that no country genuinely wants war and yet every one is girding up his loins for a grand all-out fight, no weapons barred. Thus, Mr Nehru will be the strong voice of reason, stressing this universal desire of peace.

Against the British and European background today many people may doubt whether he will be able to swing opinion to the side of peace decisively at the conference, but his voice will be heard with considerable respect if not for his consistent policy of peace, for the strategic value to Britain, the Commonwealth and their Allies of having India on their side in any future war.

In such an atmosphere it is natural perhaps that the air here should be full of speculation of Mr Nehru's attitude and the possible "price he will demand for his support of the West.

Newspapers in Britain especially speculate that India will want a free settlement in her favour of Kashmir and Nepal as the "price of co-operation". Wisfully they think of India as the base of a South-East Asia command, the Asian counterpart of General Eisenhower's North Atlantic Army.

At the same time the newspapers try to find a foil for India in Pakistan, mentioning the strategic importance of Gilgit and Kashmir for Allied air strategy at the back door to Tibet and China.

Mr Nehru, when he comes here, will have by his side for consultations, his Ambassador in America, Mr Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, who would not only be able to give him firsthand her assessment of China from her recent contacts in Loko Success but also her estimate of American intentions on this overriding question of peace or war.—Reuters.

Getting Ready The Christmas Cheer



Christmas is near and both the children and nurses at an English residential nursery school are all ready for it. Chief occupation has been the mixing of puddings and naturally all the kiddies wanted to take a turn at stirring. Five-year-old Glynie, with Cook's help, makes the traditional wish as she does so.—London Express Service.

Army XV Could Win Rugger Tournament Says "AXIOM"

Today's rugger matches round off the first half of the Pentangular Tournament with the Club being the only undefeated fifteen, but unless they show considerable improvement I fancy the Army fifteen as the ultimate winners.

If the Navy had managed to retain the services of their star players the result would in all probability have remained in doubt until the "no side" of the last match.

The RAF and Club commence today's proceedings and wish the airman on the upgrade this match promises to be much more interesting than previous encounters between these fifteen.

HARD HIT

The civilians have been hard hit through injuries and are fielding an almost reorganised back division, Stewart and Layton are both unfit, the former having been injured during a mid-week game.

The Club's policy here seems to be somewhat unwelcome in allowing their key men to take part in friendlies as the decisive stage in the tournament draws near. By far the most interesting feature of the line-up is the re-

turn of De Rome and Hutson. Their inclusion should do much to make up for the punch which has been missing in recent weeks. J. Henderson and D. Lochlan have been switched in what appears to be an experimental move.

F/O Hodgkinson leads a much fitter side today and, providing the pack can hold their opposites as well as they held the heavy Police eight, the outsiders should manage to cope with Nolan and company.

WILL HAVE TO FIGHT

The Navy are still sadly depleted and will have to fight extremely hard against the Police fifteen if they hope to come out on top.

I have a sneaking suspicion that the Police might pull a surprise here. Both packs play a rugged open game and with the odds that honours in this phase break even, the harder running Slewin and Russell should manage to bore through the weak defence in the Navy centre.

The Police are long overdue for a win and will not have a better opportunity this season than offers today.

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Christmas Day Broadcast

London, Dec. 22.

Christmas Day in a New England home and with the United Nations fighting forces in the Far East will be features of the British Broadcasting Corporation's annual Christmas Day round-the-world broadcast which ends with an address by King George.

Details of names and places are secret until the broadcast.

Contributions will also come from Commonwealth countries and European centres.—Reuters.

THE MAN IN CELL 9

(Continued from Page 6)

our demands for full self-government, and about using his veto.

It depends, too, on Nkruma, who alone of the 25 followers still in goal, will not be freed before polling day.

According to himself, 41-year-old Nkruma is a non-Communist, non-smoker, non-vegetarian. He was a professor of Negro history in the United States, and a London School of Economics student-revolutionary.

As he hears his campaigners marching by and singing "Kwame Nkruma is behind the prison bars, but his soul goes marching on," the prisoners sing back a new party anthem: "There is victory for us."

The degree of victory depends on the race now under way. It is a race to educate the Africans to make good use of the vote.

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"Well, Horace, you're to be sacrificed on Christmas for a bunch of relatives, but I'll have to listen to their dinner table chatter!"

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LADIES, we have at your service all specialized operations for Helene Curtis cool waves made with permanent setting and manicure—Rose Marie Beauty Parlour—Phone 5034—43, Hankow Road, Kowloon.

RADIO REPAIRS performed by trained technicians under foreign supervision. Repairs include: vacuum tubes, chassis, moderate rates, reliable work. Our equipment is of the latest. Phone 5034—43, Hankow Road, Kowloon.

PERKING ART RUG CO., 21A Nathan Rd., Kowloon, sell exclusively of carpets and rugs. Please drop in and have a look.

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CONVENIENT EASY way to own a new flat. Modern, well equipped, a beautiful large table model, in luxury radiogram, we have a "Pilot" flat. Terms as low as \$100 per month. Colonial Agencies, School Building, 14 Queen's Road, Phone 5034.

NOTICE

It has been discovered that goods packed in packets, boxes and cartons almost identical with those used in the packing of genuine "Silver-Tex" products by the manufacturers, Messrs Killian Manufacturing Company of Akron, Ohio, are being sold or exposed for sale in the Colony, and are not the products of the above-named Killian Manufacturing Company.

The undersigned who, are the sole distributors in the Colony of genuine Silver-Tex products have already successfully prosecuted one offender under the Merchandise Marks Ordinance 1890, and will not hesitate to commence further prosecutions against any person found to have committed an offence against the said Ordinance in relation to Silver-Tex products.

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